

DH



DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

Iran Guards navy chief killed

Alireza Tangsiri was said to be behind blocking Strait of Hormuz

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State

Guarantee schemes 'forced' state to cut funds for nutrition: CAG

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State

Dr Prabha Chandra takes charge as Nimhans director

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Sports

Gender testing back for 2028 Olympics

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Nation

Centre urged to withdraw transgender bill

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DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Balen to be sworn-in as Nepal's PM today

Elected RSP's leader of Parliamentary party
Page 13



B'luru to go vertical as horizontal growth hit by hurdles: DKS

Future BDA plans to focus on high-rise development



2nd airport in the south?

A second airport for Bengaluru is inevitable and it appears that the green-field facility will come up in south Bengaluru as the location is closer to a water source. "There is no other option but to go south," Shivakumar told the Assembly.

Admission to Class 1: Age rule eased by 60 days

BENGALURU, DHNS: Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa on Thursday announced a 60-day relaxation in the age eligibility norm for Class 1 admissions for the 2026-27 academic year, offering relief to parents whose children fall short of the prescribed age cut-off.

Making a statement in the Assembly, the minister said that while the existing rule mandates that a child must be six years old as of June 1, 2026, the government has decided to allow a temporary relaxation of up to 60 days to address practical difficulties faced by parents. He said the relaxation would also extend to LKG and UKG levels.

Details on Page 4

State reviewing 'creamy layer' income limit

Karnataka is examining hiking the annual income limit for the 'creamy layer' from the existing Rs 8 lakh, the government told the Assembly. Backward Classes Welfare Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi stated that the government was examining hiking the limit to Rs 12.75 lakh.

Details on Page 5

THURSDAY'S DEVELOPMENTS

Get serious, make deal: Trump warns Tehran

Claims Iran allowed 10 oil tankers to pass via Strait of Hormuz

DUBAI/WASHINGTON, AGENCIES

A day after Tehran dismissed US President Donald Trump's 15-point ceasefire plan, the American leader claimed that Iran was "begging to make a deal", and that he wasn't the one pushing for negotiations. Earlier Thursday, Trump told Tehran to "get serious soon" on negotiating a deal to end the war.

Iran and the US appeared at an impasse, with each side hardening its position over talks and setting the stage for another potential escalation in the war.

Trump's statement contradicted the Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi who said his country was reviewing a US proposal to end the war but had no intention of holding talks to wind down the conflict. Trump



First aid responders at the site of an Israeli airstrike at Kfar Roummâne, southern Lebanon. AFP

India has 60 days of oil: Govt

Amid reports of panic buying and long queues at petrol pumps and LPG distributors, the Centre on Thursday said India has about 60 days of oil stock cover and has secured one full month of LPG supply.

Details on Page 10

Fertiliser supply strained

The conflict has put India's fertiliser supplies under severe pressure. India's heavy dependence on the Gulf region for both raw materials and finished products has exposed the country's vulnerability in farm inputs.

Details on Page 10

also denied being "desperate" to make a deal with Iran.

A senior Iranian official said Tehran's initial response to the US proposal to end the war,

which was conveyed to Pakistan, was that it was "one-sided and unfair".

► **Iran, Page 7**
Nayara hikes fuel prices, P10

14 killed as pvt bus catches fire after collision in AP

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

At least 14 passengers were killed and 28 others injured after a private bus caught fire following a head-on collision with a lorry in Andhra Pradesh's Markapuram district on Thursday morning.

The collision's impact led to a fire on the bus, leaving several passengers trapped. Many of the victims were charred to death, said officials.

Of the 41 passengers on board, 26 were shifted to Markapuram Government Hospital, with seven in critical condition. The bus was on its way from Jagtital to Kanigiri in Nellore district.

The fire spread within seconds, suffocating passengers with thick smoke before they



Smoke and flames billow after a bus collided with a lorry in Andhra Pradesh on Thursday. PTI

could break free. Three fire engines rushed to the scene and brought the blaze under control, officials added.

District Collector P Rajababu confirmed 41 people were on board.

President Droupadi Murmu, PM Modi and CM N Chandrababu Naidu condoled the loss of lives.

► **Bus accident, Page 7**

Two stabbed to death by minor

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 36-year-old woman and her brother were stabbed to death by a minor boy in Bengaluru following a quarrel over an alleged affair. The victim's husband was having an affair, and she, along with her brother, had gone to the woman's house. After a quarrel, the woman's son killed them, said the police.

Details on Page 3

'Want 4 IPL passes for each MLA'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Speaker UT Khader on Thursday asked the government to ensure that every lawmaker gets four premium tickets at the Chinnaswamy Stadium on match days after members across parties slammed the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) for "disrespecting" them.

The issue was raised by



Speaker UT Khader

Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka during a debate on Bengaluru development in the Assembly, where an

MLA even said they are VIPs and cannot stand in queues.

"We have given 16.32 acres for the stadium at a monthly rent of Rs 1,600. They make us beg for one ticket. They don't give tickets to MLAs. When they do, the charge is as high as Rs 20,000 per ticket. They are sitting on thousands of crores. We should teach them a lesson," Ashoka said.

Details on Page 5



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LIC/R/1/2025-26/10/ENG

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL
Dalit Sangharsh Samiti (Ambedkarite): Release of the book 'Unnata Shikshana-Olagu Horagu'; Jnanajyoti Hall, Central College; 4.30 pm.

CULTURAL
Angaranga: Staging of TP Kailasam's play 'Huttadalli Hutta'; MES Kishore Kendra, 10th Main, Malleswaram; 6.30 pm.

Datu Theatre: Staging of play based on Poorna Chandra Tejaswi's 'Parisadara Kathe'; Yuvaapatha, Jayanagar 4th Block; 7 pm.

RELIGIOUS
Mutyalamma Devi Temple Trust: Rathotsava and pallakki festival; Mutyalamma K Street, Shivajinagar; 7 pm.

Abhaya Lakshmi Narasimha Charitable Trust: Discourse on 'Srimad Ramayana', special abhisheka and other puja; Tyagarajanager; 6 pm.

Rama Navami celebrations: Inauguration of 88th Sree Rama Navami Gopal Music Festival; Fort High School; 5.30 pm to 6.15 pm; Special Carnatic music concert; Fort High School; 6.45 pm to 9.45 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to:
incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.
Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST
Partly cloudy sky

TEMPERATURES
Maximum 34.6°C
Minimum 21.0°C

Rainfall (as of 8:30 am) --
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm) NA%
Sunset (Mar 27) 6:31 pm
Sunrise (Mar 28) 6:20 am
Moonrise 12:32 pm
Moonset 0:58 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5:30 pm) Source: IMD

Central, East
Corpsns to present
budgets today

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Central and East City corporations will present their 2026-27 budgets on Friday.

The East Corporation has scheduled the programme at MLR Convention Centre, Whitefield, at 9.30 am, while the Central Corporation will present its budget at Sir Puttanna Chetty Town Hall at 12.30 pm.

In the absence of an elected body, both corporations have invited residents' welfare associations, senior citizens and not-for-profit organisations to witness the budget presentation. The proceedings will also be telecast on official YouTube channels. The budgets of the North, West and South Corporations are scheduled to be presented on Saturday.

This is the sixth consecutive budget to be presented by senior bureaucrats, a task typically performed by elected councillors.

Bitumen shortage stalls
roadwork across five corpsns

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bad roads continue to plague several parts of the city as repair and asphalt works have come to a halt due to a shortage of bitumen, raising concerns over monsoon preparedness.

Major stretches such as Hennur Road, Bannerghatta Road, Mysore Road, Hosakerehalli Main Road, and Panathur Road remain in poor condition, with commuters forced to navigate uneven surfaces, loose gravel, and deep potholes.

In many locations, roads dug up for laying pipelines or cables have been left incomplete.

Officials and contractors say the disruption in bitumen supply — a key material used in asphalt — has stalled projects across all five corporations. The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) requires about 60,000 tonnes of bitumen to complete all pending roadworks.

Contractors have paused asphalt work barring places like MG Road, with only civil works such as fixing drains and footpaths continuing in a few areas.

The delay has triggered frustration among residents.

"Hennur Road is completely



The neglected stretch opposite the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore on Bannerghatta Road in Bilekahalli tells a story of neglect. DH PHOTO/NAVEEN MENEZES

broken. There is dust all over. This is also the road that a large number of commuters use to reach the Kempegowda International Airport. If the condition is already bad now, imagine what happens when

sub-arterial roads would be repaired before the rains. With works now stalled in several areas, those assurances appear increasingly uncertain.

There is also concern that the bitumen shortage could lead to fake billing, given that the state government has already approved roadworks worth Rs 2,241 crore, with the project at various stages of implementation.

Meanwhile, the Greater Bengaluru City Corporations Contractors' Association wrote to the commissioners of all five corporations, seeking an increase in bitumen prices from Rs 45,000 per tonne to Rs 72,000 per tonne.

"There is a possibility that the prices could go up further in the coming days," said BM Nandakumar, president of the association, requesting the corporations to revise prices for projects that have already received work orders.

Segregate or not? Garbage
contractors await clear orders

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd (BSWML) held a meeting with garbage contractors on Thursday over confusion on collection of segregated waste.

Contractors promised to abide by the rules, but BSWML has not stopped them from collecting mixed waste. "The meeting went well. We have informed the contractors to create awareness among the public to hand over only segregated waste. For now, we will not stop collecting mixed waste from residents, but there is a plan to gradually increase the percentage of waste segregation at source in every ward," BSWML Chief Executive Officer Karee Gowda told DH.

Segregation at source has gained importance as the Swachh Survekshan survey is underway and the BSWML aims to improve its ranking. There is, however, no clarity on directions.



Door-to-door collection of garbage came to a halt in at least 50 wards on Monday after auto-tipper drivers and loaders went on mass leave, protesting against the BSWML over delayed salaries and a new rule on waste segregation. DH FILE

SN Balasubramanian, president of the Garbage Contractors Association, said contractors would be willing to stop collecting mixed waste if the BSWML issued such an order.

"But officials should not entrust the responsibility of segregating the waste to our workers. It is not an easy task and is inhumane, too," he said.

Balasubramanian also said the BSWML has not released workers' salaries for the past

four months as promised.

Disruption in garbage collection has subsided with auto tippers collecting waste in many wards.

Door-to-door collection of garbage came to a halt in at least 50 wards on Monday after auto-tipper drivers and loaders went on mass leave, protesting against the BSWML over delayed salaries and a new rule on waste segregation.

Traffic curbs on Mysuru Road
for Gali Anjaneya Swamy temple fair

BENGALURU, DHNS: Commuters heading towards Mysuru Road and the Central Business District should brace for significant delays this weekend.

The Byatarayanapura Traffic Police have issued an advisory in view of the annual Brahma Rathotsava at the Shri Gali Anjaneya Swamy Temple, scheduled for Friday and Saturday. With thousands of devotees expected to throng the temple, several traffic diversions will be in place starting Friday morning.

Restrictions on Friday
From 7 am on Friday until the conclusion of the event, all vehicles travelling from Majestic

and City Market towards Mysuru Road will be restricted between Hosaguddadahalli Junction and Kimco Junction.

Alternative routes
Motorists must turn left at Hosaguddadahalli Junction, proceed via Avalahalli Main Road, turn right at KEB Junction, and continue past PESIT College and Deve Gowda Circle to reach Nayandahalli.

Restrictions on Saturday
From 7 am on Saturday until 9 am on Sunday, traffic will be barred in both directions on Mysuru Road between Kimco Junction and Hosaguddadahalli Junction.

Alternative routes
From Kengeri: Vehicles entering the city should turn left at Nayandahalli, proceed via Nagarabhatti and Chandra Layout to reach West of Chord Road, and then continue towards Magadi Road.

To Majestic/City Market: Commuters can take the Atgipuppe-Vijayanagar route, turning at MC Circle to join Magadi Main Road.

Goods vehicles
Heavy goods vehicles are prohibited from using the Mysuru Road flyover towards Hosaguddadahalli. They are advised to take the Veterinary Junction-Goods Shed Road-Khoday Circle route to reach Magadi Road.

Light goods vehicles (LGVs) will be diverted via Binnypet.

Activists raise red flags over
voter roll exercise in state

BENGALURU, DHNS: A coalition of civil society organisations under the banner 'My Vote, My Right' met Karnataka Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) V Anbukumar on Thursday, raising concerns over voter roll mapping ahead of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in April.

The delegation, comprising representatives from trade unions, Dalit rights groups and women's collectives, alleged that the mapping exercise, a precursor to SIR, is being conducted in an opaque manner. They argued the process is structurally designed to exclude the working poor, Adivasis and religious minorities.

The group stated Anbukumar as saying that 4.46 crore out of 5.57 crore electors in the state have been mapped, but the accuracy of the data remains uncertain until the enumeration phase begins. The CEO noted that un-

mapped voters might receive notices, which activists said could lead to large-scale disenfranchisement.

"The CEO's response was unsatisfactory. Claiming limitations while the right to vote of lakhs is at stake is worrisome," the group stated.

They pointed to reports indicating that 73.2 per cent of mapping is complete, yet no official protocols or schedules have been made public since the exercise allegedly began in November 2025.

The activists raised 16 queries, including the legal mandate for mapping rolls against 2002 data and the definition of logical discrepancies used to flag voters.

The group has demanded the suspension of SIR until the Supreme Court rules on its legality, citing a drop in gender ratios and deletion of migrant workers in 13 other states where SIR was previously implemented.



Around 20 members of 'My Vote, My Right' raised concerns about the manner in which mapping of voter rolls is being done in Karnataka. DH PHOTO/ASHWIN BM

BTP imposes 3-day Marathahalli
Bridge traffic ban for Metro work

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) has announced a three-day temporary ban on vehicular movement on the Marathahalli Bridge to facilitate Metro construction by Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL).

The restrictions will be in effect from Friday to Sunday, during the late-night window of 12 am to 3 am.

According to an advisory issued by the HAL Airport Traffic Police Station, vehicles travelling in both directions — from HAL towards Varthur/Whitefield and vice versa — will not be allowed on Marathahalli Bridge during these hours.

proceed via Alpine Eco Road to Anjaneya Junction, and continue along Kundalahalli Main Road and Graphite Road towards Whitefield/Varthur.

From Varthur/Whitefield towards HAL: Commuters can travel via Varthur Main Road, turn right at Kundalahalli Junction, proceed along Kundalahalli Main Road to Anjaneya Junction, take a left onto Alpine Eco Road to Outer Ring Road, then turn right at Kartik Nagar Junction.

Continue via Doddanekkundi Main Road to Doddanekkundi Junction, then turn right onto Varthur Main Road towards HAL.

Varthur/Whitefield to HAL: Take Varthur Main Road to Vibgyor Junction, turn left onto Vibgyor School Road, continue via Balagere Main Road to Kadubeesana-halli Junction, then turn left onto Outer Ring Road. Proceed to Marathahalli Bridge Junction and turn left onto Varthur Main Road towards HAL.

Alternative routes
From HAL towards Varthur/Whitefield: Vehicles should take Varthur Main Road, turn left at Doddanekkundi Junction, continue to Kartik Nagar Junction, and reach Outer Ring Road. From there, turn left, take a U-turn under the Doddanekkundi flyover,

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AWES Clerk	01	Excellent Account Knowledge with MS Word, MS Excel, Powerpoint and any additional computer skills. □ 12th and preferably Graduate □ Should have minimum experience of 3 years as a clerk.	□ Gross- Rs 25,000 (Negotiable based on experience) □ Gratuity as applicable □ 21 days lve □ Bonus of 15 days pay
Chef	02	□ Expert in all types of Indian and continental cuisine. □ Should have experience in Hospitality Industry.	□ Gross-Rs 25,000 (Negotiable based on experience) □ Gratuity as applicable □ 28 days lve □ Bonus of 15 days pay □ Accommodation
Steward	02	□ Young Smart expert in serving the food and beverages. □ Should have minimum 3 years industry experience.	□ Gross Rs 20,000 (Negotiable based on experience) □ Gratuity as applicable □ 28 days lve □ Bonus of 15 days pay □ Accommodation
Multi Tasking Staff	02	□ Staff with Electrical and Gardening Experience. □ Should be ready to assume multi task in kitchen, grocery shopping housekeeping etc.	□ Gross Rs 20,000 (Negotiable based on experience) □ Gratuity as applicable □ 28 days lve □ Bonus of 15 days pay □ Accommodation

Note:

- Last date of application submission 10 Apr 2026 (along with Experience and Qualification certificates) to kkssa.apsschools@gmail.com and tele No 9466624001
- On scrutiny of documents interview will be scheduled after 10 Apr 2026 and joining by 01 May 2026.

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Corrigendum-01

PR Ref. No: 374614 NIT No.: JUIDCO/NIT/RFP/DPR-RF/688 Tender ID: 2026_UDD_111374_1

Name of the work: Request for Proposal (RFP) for Selection of Consultant for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) and for providing Project Management Consultancy (PMC) services during work implementation of Roads, Flyovers, and Related Urban Transport Infrastructure at various locations of Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Sl. No.	Clause No./ Reference No.	As per Uploaded RFP	As per Corrigendum-01
1.	Pg. No:3 of RFP (Notice Inviting Tender)	5 Last Date/ Time of Bid submission. 01.04.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.	5 Last Date/ Time of Bid submission. 07.04.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.
		6 Date/ Time of opening of Bid 02.04.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.	6 Date/ Time of opening of Bid 08.04.2026 at 17:00 Hrs.

Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Limited, Ranchi

PR 376183 Urban Development(25-26)#D

Corrigendum-01

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Sd/-
Project Director (Technical)
JUIDCO Limited, Ranchi

PR 376183 Urban Development(25-26)#D

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
REPLACEMENT OF PEDESTAL ETC. AT LC GATES

Tender Notice No.: SUR-N-T-2025-26-48 Date : 24.03.2026 DRMs(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website www.irps.gov.in from the capable, reputed firms /Contractors for the following works :- **Name of work with its locality:** Replacement of overaged gate pedestal and associated accessories at LC gates in Solapur division of Central Railway. **Tender No.:** SUR-N-T-2025-26-48 **Approximate Cost of the work:** ₹1,59,35,211.54. **Cost of the tender form:** NIL. **Earnest money to be deposited:** ₹2,29,700 **Completion period of the work:** 12 Months **Date & Time of Closing of tender:** 20/04/2026 after 15:30 Hrs The details are available in irps website. Corrigendum/amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postale-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with www.irps.gov.in. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids) For further details please visit www.irps.gov.in.

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CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
SIGNALLING WORK

Tender Notice No.: SUR-N-T-2025-26-47 Date : 24.03.2026 DRMs(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website www.irps.gov.in from the capable, reputed firms /Contractors for the following works :- **Name of work with its locality:** Signalling work in connection with Construction of ROB in lieu of LC-40 and LC-42 in Solapur-Kurduwadi section of Solapur Division". **Tender No.:** SUR-N-T-1,33,43,324.27. **2025-26-47. Approximate Cost of the work:** ₹1,33,43,324.27. **Cost of the tender form:** NIL. **Earnest money to be deposited:** ₹2,16,700. **Completion period of the work:** 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of tender:** 20/04/2026 after 15:30 Hrs The details are available in irps website. Corrigendum/amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postale-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with www.irps.gov.in. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids) For further details please visit www.irps.gov.in.

UNSAFE AND UNAUTHORIZED WORK NEAR THE RAILWAY LINE IS A PUNISHABLE OFFENCE.

EASTERN RAILWAY

e-Tender Notice No. MC_WC_App_ER_SDAH_26, dated: 24.03.2026. Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, Room No. 42, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Kolkata - 700014 invites sealed Open Tenders on "Single Packet System" in prescribed tender forms from reputed contractors with adequate experience and financial capability for the under mentioned work: **Name/ Description of Work:** Supply and installation of an App for monitoring the attendance and efficacy of OBHS staff in Eastern Railway trains for 02 Years. **Tender value:** Rs. 48,30,625/- **Earnest Money:** Rs. 96,600/- **Cost of Tender Documents:** Rs. 3,000/- **Period of contract:** 24 months. **Bidding Start Date:** 01.04.2026. **Date and time of closing of tender:** 15.04.2026 at 13.00 hrs. **Date and timing of tender opening:** 15.04.2026 at 13.00 hrs. Tender document including e-tender notice and eligibility criteria of the work may be seen and downloaded from www.irps.gov.in (Website URL). No manual offer will be accepted.

SDAH-446/2025-26
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.e-r.indianrailways.gov.in/www.irps.gov.in

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Government of Jharkhand
Department of Information Technology and e-Governance
3rd Floor, Jharkhand Mantralaya, Dhurwa, Ranchi-834004
Cancellation Notice

This is to inform that tender for "Selection of UIDAI Empanelled Authentication Service Agency (ASA) for providing ASA services" tender reference no. UIDAI/ASAService/1/2026-UID/001 and Advertisement PR.No. 373682 is hereby cancelled due to unavoidable reasons.

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Joint Secretary,
DoIT & e-Gov.

PR 376128 Information Technology(25-26).D

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- Around 2,000 personnel, including senior officers, will be stationed in and around the stadium and key connecting routes to maintain law and order.
- Additional traffic police will be deployed to ensure smooth movement for the general public.
- The Fire Department will position two large water bowzers, four smaller vehicles, and handheld firefighting equipment for emergencies.
- In a first, seven special squads (15–20 selected personnel each) will patrol the stadium perimeter to strictly enforce ticketing rules.
- Those without valid QR-enabled e-tickets will not be allowed to loiter, particularly on Queen's Road.

B'luru tightens security grid for IPL 2026 opener at Chinnaswamy

ON DUTY TOMORROW: 7 special squads, 2,000 personnel deployed

BENGALURU, DHNS

Seven special squads and around 2,000 police personnel will be deployed for the 2026 IPL season opener on Saturday at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium here.

With the first phase of expert safety recommendations largely implemented, Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh on Thursday said authorities have “left no stone unturned” to ensure fan safety.

“Mock drills were conducted on March 23 and 26. All key departments—police, fire and emergency services, civil defence and Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA)—participated in the simulations. Improvements have been made, and any pending work will be completed before Saturday,” he said.

Authorities have urged fans to arrive early, noting that gates will open four hours before the match.

“To avoid overcrowding, spectators are encouraged to use public transport such as the Metro and BMTC buses. A valid match ticket also includes complimentary Metro travel,” the top cop said.

To streamline entry, nine designated holding areas have been set up inside the stadium. The largest—the KSCA ‘B’ Ground—can accommodate up to 5,000 people at a time.

After initial checks at the main entrance, ticket holders will be directed to these holding areas, followed by detailed frisking. Prohibited items will



Senior police officials inspect the M Chinnaswamy Stadium ahead of the IPL opener on Saturday, reviewing security and crowd plans. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

be confiscated before spectators proceed through turnstile gates to their respective stands.

A visit to the stadium on Thursday showed final preparations underway, with turnstile gates installed or being set up alongside baggage scanners and metal detectors.

A separate holding area has been arranged for VIPs. Officials advised spectators in the Members, F and H upper stands to use the MG Road metro station for easier access.

Police also urged fans to carry their QR-enabled tickets, head to the correct gates, and, if arriving in groups, enter together to ensure smoother movement.



Preparations underway at the stadium.

THE DOS

- **Use the Metro:** Your valid match ticket doubles as a free Metro pass. Skip the traffic and travel via the MG Road or Cubbon Park stations. Extra trains will run on match days to handle the rush.
- **Arrive early:** Gates open four hours before the first ball. Getting there early helps you navigate the new holding area system and clear security without last-minute stress.
- **Carry your QR ticket:** Make sure your phone is fully charged, as your QR code will need to be scanned at multiple checkpoints.
- **Stick to your gate:** Use the entry gate mentioned on your ticket. Most general entry routes are now redirected to Cubbon Road, which has wider 9-metre gates for smoother movement.
- **Pre-book parking:** If you plan to drive, reserve parking in advance through the official ticketing app at designated locations such as Freedom Park or St Joseph's.

THE DON'TS

- **Don't transfer your QR code:** Tickets are non-transferable. Using a ticket booked under someone else's name may result in denied entry.
- **Don't buy from unauthorised sellers:** Only QR-enabled e-tickets purchased through official platforms will be accepted at the gates.
- **Don't loiter on Queen's Road:** Security is tighter this year, with seven special squads patrolling the area. Those without valid tickets will not be allowed to gather near the stadium.
- **Avoid prohibited items:** Do not carry power banks, large bags, or any restricted items.
- **No street parking:** Strict no-parking rules are in effect on Queen's Road, Cubbon Road, and MG Road. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed.

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From May, Yellow Line to get 5-minute peak frequency

Namma Metro: 10 trains on RV Rd-Bommasandra

BENGALURU, DHNS

Peak-hour headway on the Yellow Line is expected to improve to five minutes by May as Namma Metro plans to operate 10 trains on the RV Road-Bommasandra corridor.

Bengal-based Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL) is set to dispatch two more Yellow Line trains by early April.

One is being packed at the company's Uttarpara plant near Kolkata and will be dispatched by the end of this month. The second train will be dispatched by the first week of April, a senior official at Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRL) said.

Both trains are expected to



The ninth train for the Yellow Line will be dispatched by March-end. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

be inducted into service in May after undergoing the mandatory 750-km trial run on the mainline, which typically takes a fortnight. That will expand the Yellow Line fleet to 10 trains.

The BMRL currently operates eight trains on the 19.15-km RV Road-Bommasandra metro line, which opened last August and sees an average weekday ridership of approximately one lakh people.

However, many commuters are still unhappy with the headway, which stands at nine minutes during peak hours and 14 minutes during off-peak hours.

The peak hours run from 8 am to noon and 4 pm to 9 pm. With 10 trains, BMRL officials aim to improve peak-hour frequency to 5-6 minutes and non-peak hour frequency to 10-12 minutes.

One train will be kept on standby for emergencies.

‘Indian Pedestrian League’ kicks off today

BENGALURU, DHNS: As part of the Swachh Survekshan campaign, Arun Pai, brand ambassador of Swachha Bengaluru, has launched a clean-up drive titled ‘Indian Pedestrian League’ ahead of the Indian Premier League.

Starting Friday, along with his team of volunteers, Pai will begin the clean-up drive at Inner Ring Road,

Koramangala, at 7 am.



Arun Pai

we thought it would be a fun way to get more people interested in cleaning the city,

as RCB manages to bring the entire city together. We will be doing a similar drive before every RCB match in the city, till the IPL season lasts,” Pai told *DH*.

As the clean-up is located in the Shantinagar constituency, the initiative on Friday has been called ‘RCB Vs SRH’, wherein RCB stands for ‘Raste Cleanup Bengaluru’ and SRH for ‘Shantinagar Raste Horror’.

“We have no association with the IPL. But, for all the clean-up locations we are trying to come up with clever names such as the ‘Lingarajupuram Super Garbage’ (LSG) and ‘Chikpete Super Kasa’ (CSK). Volunteers are welcome. We will announce the schedule soon.”

‘Didn't you say I love you?’ College prof booked for harassing students

BENGALURU, DHNS: Students at a Bengaluru college allegedly thrashed an assistant professor after he was accused of sexually harassing female students and proposing to one of them.

Abdul Rehman Sharif, a faculty member in the Microbiology Department at Siddhartha Institute of Medical Sciences in T Begur, Nelmangala, has been accused of inappropriate behaviour and sexual harassment.

Students reported the matter to the principal, Devakar SV, who subsequently lodged a complaint with the Nelmangala Rural police.

Sharif has been booked under BNS sections 74 (assault or criminal force against a woman with intent to outrage her modesty), 75 (sexual harassment), and 329 (criminal trespass). An investigation is underway.

According to the FIR, the college management had issued a notice directing the assistant professor to appear for an inquiry and instructed him not to enter the campus.

However, he allegedly returned to the campus on March 23, where he “forcefully held a student's hand and behaved inappropriately”, causing panic among students and disrupting the campus atmosphere, the FIR stated.

Videos on social media Meanwhile, two videos allegedly showing the assistant professor have surfaced online.

In one, he claims a student proposed to him and that he reciprocated, which she denies, challenging him to produce supposed CCTV evidence.

In another, a student is seen hitting him with her footwear while others verbally and physically assault him.

However, the FIR does not mention these incidents, and the videos' authenticity remains unverified.

Physical disembarkation cards to discontinue from April 1

BENGALURU, DHNS: Physical disembarkation cards will be discontinued from April 1.

All foreign nationals travelling to India will be required to complete the digitised e-Arrival Card within 72 hours prior to arrival via the Indian

visa website (<https://indian-visaonline.gov.in/earrival/>) or the Su-Swagatam app for a smooth entry experience, according to Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA).

FAITH & FESTIVITY



Children dressed as Lord Rama and Goddess Sita take part in Rama Navami celebrations at Rajajinagar Ramamandira in Bengaluru on Thursday. DH PHOTO/BK JANARDHAN

NEW LEADERSHIP

Dr Prabha Chandra takes charge as Nimhans Director

BENGALURU, DHNS

Dr Prabha Chandra has assumed charge as the interim Director of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (Nimhans). She succeeds Dr Pratima Murthy, whose term concluded on March 14.

Dr Prabha will serve in this role for five months or until a new director is appointed, whichever is earlier.

A Senior Professor of Psychiatry at Nimhans, Dr Prabha has previously served as Dean and Head of the Department of Psychiatry at the institute. She is widely recognised for her contributions to women's mental health and adolescent well-being.

Dr Prabha has also been a Visiting Professor at the University of Liverpool, UK, and has served as President of the International Association for Women's



Dr Prabha Chandra

Mental Health.

She played a key role in establishing the Nimhans Centre for Well Being (NCWB), the institute's

urban community outreach arm.

Over the years, she has been the Principal Investigator on around 20 national and international research projects.

She currently leads the Bangalore Child Health and Development Study, now in its 10th year—India's only longitudinal pregnancy cohort featuring detailed mental health and developmental assessments of both mothers and children.

Workshop on mud construction

BENGALURU, DHNS: Mrinmayee will organise a hands-on workshop on stabilised mud for load bearing masonry on April 25.

The workshop includes soil and stabilisation, foundation, stabilised mud blocks, and mud concrete.

Those interested, can contact 9448926442/www.mrinmayeeconsultants.com for details.

KSRTC wins awards for seat reservation, navigation systems

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) said it had received two national awards at the Elets Mobility Excellence Awards 2026.

It won the award for Dhvani Spandana under the ‘Innovation in Citizen Engagement and Inclusive Mobility’ category and for the AWATAR 4.0 project integrated with UPI payment facility under the ‘Outstanding Public Transport Digitisation Initiative’ category.

Dhvani Spandana, implemented on 200 Mysuru city transport buses in collabora-

tion with GIZ Germany, is an on-board bus identification and navigation system designed especially for visually impaired passengers. This initiative has significantly reduced their dependency on others, while greatly enhancing their confidence, safety and independence in travel, the KSRTC said.

AWATAR (Anywhere Anytime Advance Reservation) is the KSRTC's digital seat reservation system that enables passengers to conveniently book tickets anytime and from anywhere through web and mobile platforms, it added.

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Sd/- Regional Manager

Feeding areas turning into black spots, activists upset

GBA has identified close to 550 spots and is in the process of adding more

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

Some GBA-designated dog feeding spots across the city have turned into black spots. When *Metrolife* drove past spots near Hosakerehalli Lake and Lalbagh Botanical Garden last week, we found that they were piling up with garbage.

The West City Corporation, which the lake falls under, has 140 designated spots, said its commissioner Dr Rajendra K V. “If this is brought to our attention, we will ensure we address the problem,” he stated. He explained that it is important that dog feeders stay until the dogs have consumed all the food before leaving.

“Some of them do not clean up after the dogs. They leave the extra food for other hungry animals. When the food is left lying out in the open, some residents presume it’s a black spot and leave their garbage there,” he said, adding that they are also in the process of addressing illegal garbage dumping.

An official from the animal husbandry department, GBA, noted that there are currently close to 550 feeding spots in the city and more are being added. “It is an ongoing process,” he said.



Garbage was found scattered at a spot near Hosakerehalli Lake.

Letter to GBA

However, animal rights activists and community dog feeders have been expressing their concerns over the ‘unscientific’ method employed by the GBA in identifying these spots.

“Dogs are territorial and are accustomed to certain spots that we have been using for years,” pointed out Sadhana Hedge, who runs Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust.

On Thursday, she sent a letter to the GBA pinpointing the flaws in the method of identifying the spots. The Trust, which supports 350 feeders, found that about 78 per cent of their feeders need more than two spots each, as dogs move



Waste piles up at a designated feeding spot on Siddapura Main Road near Lalbagh Botanical Garden. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

in packs and not all the dogs they feed belong to the same pack. Currently, the GBA has been identifying two spots for each ward, which is abysmally inadequate, she said.

The letter goes on to say that, “... In Bengaluru, we see spots assigned where there are no dogs, or it is a dirty garbage dump area, frequent public urinating spot which is highly outrageous. There has been literally no thought that has gone into putting these boards. (sic)”

The exercise of finding spots began in August 2025, after the Supreme Court banned feeding of stray dogs in public spaces and formulated a directive on designating feeding spots.

A number of feeders told *Metrolife* that they continue to face opposition from residents, especially after the Supreme Court order. “There are no spots in some areas like mine in Arekere. And I have been facing a lot of problems feeding the dogs I take care of,” stated Dr Akhilandeshwari, who lives in Mico Layout.

Advocate Alka Singh, who works in the animal husbandry department, has also been subject to hostility from other residents. Despite identifying the spots in her neighbourhood, Doddakallasandra, boards have not been installed. This has caused a lot of conflict over the past few months, she shared.

Shepherding community bring their music to public

SATHVI G BHAT
TEAM METROLIFE

A performance on Saturday will offer a glimpse into the musical traditions of Karnataka’s Kadugolla shepherding community. Titled ‘Stories of the Sari’, it will be performed by Manjunatha Yalapenahalli and his troupe from Tumakuru.

The presentation is based on the ‘Junjappa Kavya’, an oral epic that narrates the life of the community’s cultural hero and deity, Junjappa. Traditionally recited over several days, this version will focus on excerpts centred on key female figures, including Junjappa’s mother and sisters, as well as the saris they wore. The excerpts will be sung and narrated to the accompaniment of the gane, a ritualistic flute-like instrument.

Sanamma and her group will also present ‘Kadugollana padagalu’, a form of musical banter practised by women in the community. This will mark their first appearance on a public stage. Narasimharaju B K of the Jiguru Academy of Performing Arts, Sira, which is presenting the show, said, “We wanted to encourage these women to share their oral traditions in new settings.” The programme is part of ‘Noorakke Nooru Karnataka’, a podcast initiative by the Azim Premji Foundation.

On March 28, 6.30 pm, at Indian Heritage Academy, Koramangala. Entry free. To register, visit indianheritageacademy.org



Women from the Kadugolla community from Tumakuru will perform.

Nine-day art fest opens on Saturday

The second edition of ‘Bengaluru Art Weekend’ will be held from March 28 to April 5 across multiple venues in the city. The line-up features over 40 events, including workshops, panel discussions, and musical performances.

This edition will feature a wider diversity of art forms compared to last year, with textiles being a new focus area. A panel discussion on textiles and culture, featuring industry experts Lavanya Nalli, Supria Radaraman, and Lavina Baldota, will be held on the opening day. Carpet collector Danny Mehra will lead a walkthrough of his home museum the same day. “Bengaluru’s audience is curious when it comes to art,” says Meghna Mathew from the founding team.

Highlights of the nine-day event include a flower arrangement workshop by Jayati Jain, and a fireside chat with filmmaker Anurag Kashyap. Visit bengaluruartweekend.org on Instagram for tickets and schedule.

‘Job seekers using AI to write resumes worrying’

Bengaluru recruiters say screening applicants is getting harder as CVs are becoming increasingly similar

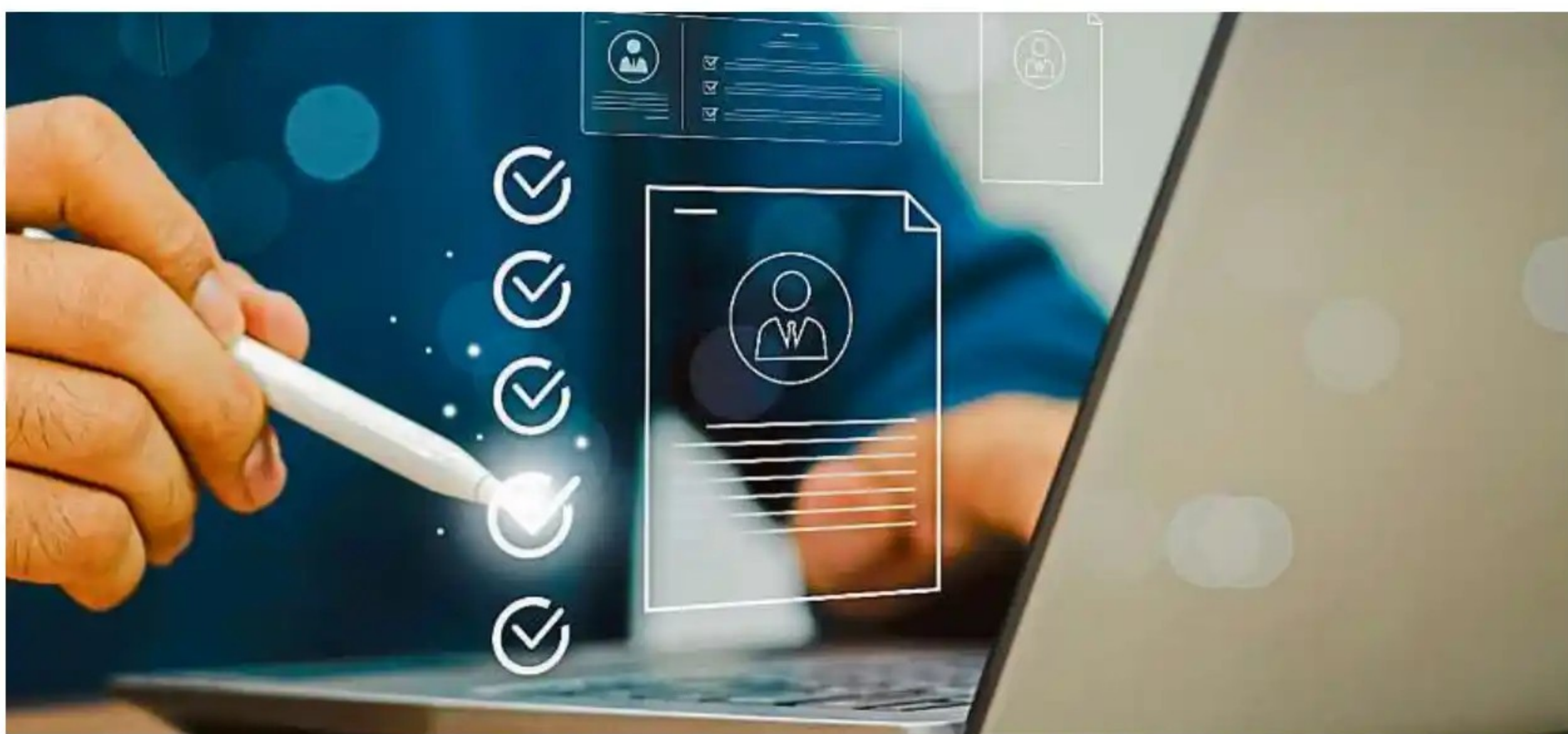
TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Artificial intelligence (AI) may be replacing humans in the workforce, but ironically, recruiters and human resource personnel in the city are facing an unusual challenge. Candidates are increasingly turning to AI to generate or polish their resumes, making it more challenging for them to screen and shortlist suitable candidates.

In a recent incident, Bengaluru-based founder Raj Vikramaditya posted on X that a hiring call for a UX role brought in a flood of low-effort, AI-generated applications, describing the situation as “too much noise” with very few candidates standing out.

Sumanth S, an HR head at an AI platform company, says AI use in resumes is common among entry- and mid-level candidates. “Around 65-70% of resumes today are AI-generated or AI-supported,” he says, adding that AI has standardised language, making structure and content increasingly similar.

Annie Thomas, an HR professional with over a decade of experience, says, “Earlier, people used templates from the Internet. And now, they use AI. Candidates feed basic information into tools and get polished, jargon-heavy resumes.”



She estimates that around 95% of resumes she receives have some level of AI use. In some cases, candidates copy responses without editing them. “We have seen resumes with sentences from AI prompts, which the candidate has failed to notice,” she says. Overloading resumes with too many or irrelevant skills is another common issue, she adds.

Eight out of 10 applicants to entrepreneur Madan Padaki’s company resort to AI, he says.

During interviews

Sumanth says some candidates even use AI tools in real time. “They have tools open during virtual interviews — the system generates answers and they read them out,” he says. Such tools remain hidden even during screen sharing.

To counter this, he rapidly shifts questions. “I switch between technical and non-technical questions. It disrupts the flow, and the tool cannot keep up and often mixes answers,” he says.

Annie recalls a Bengaluru case where a candidate appeared to read answers

off-screen. “His responses sounded impeccable, but something felt off. In person, he couldn’t justify anything he had said,” she says.

‘Expected change’

Padaki says the use of AI in job applications is “no longer optional but expected”. Citing a Gates Foundation-backed survey with data of around 3,000 rural youth, aged 18-29, across 15 states, he says 91% had used AI, 55% were daily users, and about 25% used AI for resumes and job applications.

He adds that recruiters are also turning to AI. “Companies now use AI tools to screen resumes and conduct initial interviews.”

Padaki says AI has also made recruitment easier in some ways. “Sourcing has improved. AI matches skills and keywords, making shortlisting faster.”

Vijay S P, cofounder of an IT consulting firm, believes that as long as candidates are using AI to enhance existing knowledge, and not fabricate or exaggerate their skills, it is acceptable.

5 groups clearing trash from popular trails

They find sites like Nijagal Betta and Uttari Betta routinely strewn with garbage

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

Trekking organisers say most popular trails within a 100-km radius of Bengaluru remain persistently littered, especially with plastic bottles. While they run regular clean-up drives, they want the government to step in, as it has at Kudremukh, Kumara Parvatha and Makalidurga. At these sites, the forest department caps footfall and checks bags for plastic.

Metrolife lists groups that head out with sacks, disposable gloves and trash-grabbing tools to keep the hills free of waste.

Skipping landfills

Cleaning trails is standard practice on all treks organised by Indiahikes. Two weekends ago, around 10 volunteers in their 30s and 40s removed 190 kg of waste from Nijagal Betta. It was then segregated — 11.8% soft plastic (such



India Hikes cleared 190 kg of waste from Nijagal Betta recently.

as biscuit wrappers), 2.3% paper, 20% hard plastic, and nearly 50% fabric. They diverted 85% of the waste from landfills. They send their collections to organisations such as Saahas, Wasted 360, Ecocrew and Hasirudala. Swathi Chatrapathy, chief editor of the company, says trails with scenic viewpoints, shrines and easy access draw larger crowds and, thus, more waste. Apart from Nijagal Betta, the team has found Harihara Betta, Madhugiri Fort and Uttari Betta frequently strewn with litter. Among the more unusual items recovered are footwear, batteries, chargers and sanitary pads. Visit indiahikes.com

Sorry state

Japnit Kaur Sidhu started Eco Wanderer in 2024 to explore nature while actively cleaning it. In March, the group collected 13 kg of trash from two trips to Uttari Betta. She says the problem is equally dire at regulated sites. “In February, we collected about 30 kg of garbage from Siddara Betta. In January, we removed 128 kg from Hulukudi Betta, and there was still plenty left behind.” The group brings the waste back to Bengaluru and gives it to solid waste processing centres.

Visit [@the_eco_wanderer](https://t.me/eco_wanderer) on Instagram.

Recycling focus

Plogging enthusiast G Nagaraj conducts clean-up treks every 1.5 to 2 months. The latest was held in February in Bannerghatta Hills, where around 60 volunteers collected 15-18 bags of plastic and glass bottles, and food packets. Nagaraj focuses on scouring bushes and steep sections, as “the main trail is often cleared by other groups”. The emphasis is on picking up larger items with higher recycling value, such as plastic containers and cartons, rather than smaller waste like mouth freshener sachets or fragile glass. The waste is handed over

Film on arts society

‘Fifty Years in Symphony: A Celebration of Music and the Arts’, a short film on the history of the International Music and Arts Society, will be screened on March 27, 6.30 pm, at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. The society opened with a Bharatanatyam recital by Vyjayanthimala Bali in Bengaluru. RSVP at bangaloreinternationalcentre.org

Childhood games

‘Oota & Aata’ will host traditional games such as alaguli mane and pagade on March 29, 10.30 am, at Saha Blr, Kamaraj Road. Tickets online.

Nature walk

Arvindh Sethuraman will lead a nature walk at the GKVK campus on March 29 at 8 am, followed by an origami session at Kadhaigal, Sahakarnagar. Details on kadhaigal.books.oninstagram.com

Kannada plays

Antharanga will stage two Kannada

plays to mark World Theatre Day. T P Kailasam’s ‘Huttadalli Hutta’ will be performed on March 28, followed by Dundiraj’s ‘Kaayuva Kaayaka’ on March 29. Both shows begin at 7.15 pm at Dr C Ashwath Kalabhavana, N R Colony, Basavanagudi. Tickets online.



Book reading

Children’s author Venkataraghavan will stage an interactive reading of his book ‘Brachio’ on March 29, 1.30 pm, at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. The two-hour session is aimed at kids aged 5 to 10. Tickets online.



The space in Banaswadi is frequented by 15 to 18 women daily.

Free centre for women to relax and do nothing

They visit the space to chat, scroll on their phones or enjoy a cup of tea

SHRADDHA A K
TEAM METROLIFE

A free private space created for women from lower socio-economic backgrounds to spend their leisure time has been going strong since it opened in 2021. It is open from Monday to Saturday, between 10 am and 5 pm. It is called Namma Katte and is an initiative by artist Indu Antony.

On average, 15-18 women visit the space daily to chat, browse on their phones or simply sit and do nothing. Every Tuesday, they unwind over cups of tea, which they either bring from home or buy from a nearby shop.

Indu opened the space after the lockdown, when she realised women from lower income families had no space of their own for ‘me time’. While men in their families often gathered at tea stalls, parks, or bars, the women spent most of their free time at home. Indu found a shop opposite an anganwadi in Banaswadi, where she had earlier conducted embroidery workshops, and turned it into Namma Katte. She pays the rent out of her own pocket.

Bhagya, a domestic worker who lives nearby, now manages the space. “Women usually start arriving after 2 pm, and the numbers grow by 5 pm,” she says. Most of the visitors live in the neighbourhood and work as domestic workers or school housekeepers. “Our youngest visitor is 26-year-old Chaitra, and our oldest is Muniyamma, who is in her 70s,” she adds.

The interiors of Namma Katte were designed with help from the women themselves. A clay installation themed on ears, created by Indu, stands out. The centre also has a swing and a sofa, both donated by the women. Outside, a tree with seating slabs around it serves as an informal gathering spot.

“In the initial days, my family would ask why I was sitting on the pavement under a tree. When I explained that I had no place to unwind after work, they understood,” says Bhagya. Since men are not allowed inside, there was some initial resistance, but it eased over time.

While the space was created for relaxation, the women also take part in weaving workshops organised by Indu, and their children attend summer camps here. The centre is also open to women from all walks of life to host workshops.

For details, visit [@nammakatte](https://nammakatte.oninstagram.com) on Instagram.

Weekend of song and dance at IME

The Indian Music Experience museum, J P Nagar, is celebrating women in music, performance, and cultural expression as part of ‘Women, History, Art Month 2026’. This weekend, the Marathi Mandal Bangalore South will showcase the musical traditions of Maharashtrian

women, while the Kanakapura Road Bengali Association will present a dance performance set to Bengali folk spring songs. Bawari Basanti and Srijanani Tapasya Santhanagopalan will perform a concert each.

Visit [@indianmusicexperience](https://indianmusicexperienceoninstagram.com) on Instagram for the schedule.

CITY MIX

Global camp to bring 120+ artists together

Twenty-three eminent artists from India and abroad, including Padma Bhushan awardee Jatin Das, will participate in the ‘International Artists’ Camp’ from March 28 to April 1 at Nature Knots, near Nrityagram, Hesaraghatta. On the second day of the camp, over 120 artists from Karnataka and beyond will gather at the venue and paint on site throughout the day. Art exhibitions, photography camps, and a music performance by French artist Martin Dubois will also be held on the same day. The camp is being organised by the Krishna Setty Foundation (KSF). Contact 99800 75463.



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Air fares fluctuate widely as govt removes cap on domestic tickets

Rise for high-demand routes Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Hyd

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

With the union government lifting the domestic airfare cap of Rs 18,000, flight charges have been constantly fluctuating, say travellers and travel agents.

Early trends indicate fares from Bengaluru continue to increase on high-demand routes like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad.

The cap was originally enforced in December 2025, during the Indigo crisis.

It was recalled by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to aid airlines as they grapple with surging fuel costs and operational hurdles like frequent rerouting, amid the West Asia conflict.

As of Thursday, ticket prices on the Bengaluru-Delhi route haverisen by Rs1,500-Rs3,000, while Bengaluru-Mumbai and Bengaluru-Hyderabad sectors have seen hikes of Rs 800-Rs 2,000, depending on demand and timing, with fares on some routes almost doubling in a day.

“We mostly focus on corporate bookings. When a client gets in touch with us, by the time we



The union government has lifted the Rs 18,000 cap on domestic airfare. The cap was enforced in December 2025, during the Indigo crisis.

send them a quotation and they get back to us, in a matter of 10 minutes, the fare increases by Rs 2,000. We're having to do a back-and-forth with the customer constantly,” said Sudhir Balan, manager at Prestige Travellers.

An algorithm-related price hike is usually limited to Rs 500, he added.

“When you check a particular route more than twice, it is common for the prices to go up by about Rs 500-700, but a jump of Rs 2,000 in 10 minutes is uncommon. This started happening as soon as the domestic airfare cap was removed,” he added.

“During summer, beach destinations like Andaman and

Goa are always in demand. From Bengaluru, the fare to Andaman is currently between Rs 25,000 and Rs 30,000, compared to the regular fare of Rs 15,000 to Rs 20,000”.

Fares to Goa have been hiked from Rs 4,000 to Rs 6,000, Rs 8,000 and Rs 10,000. Airfares to Northeast are also rising as we speak,” said Shamanth Krishnamurthy, proprietor, Sanman Travels.

Kiran B, a Yelahanka resident, shared how flight prices more than doubled in just 24 hours.

“My wife and I were planning to travel to Bhubaneswar on April 10. Originally, the airfare was around Rs 6,500 to Rs 7,000 on March 24, but when we finally decided to book the flight the next day, the fare for the same route had crossed Rs 14,000,” he said.

Another family planning a trip from Bengaluru to Ladakh

in summer noticed a hike of Rs 4,000 in the airfare in a matter of four hours on March 24.

“The summer season is when most of India's leisure travel takes place, so the prices are already on the higher side. With the cap removed, the prices are only set to rise higher. Between last year's and this year's domestic airfare, we're already seeing a minimum hike of 10%. This will increase in coming weeks,” said Rohit Hangal, director, Sphere Travelmedia and Exhibitions.

Earlier this month, the ministry directed the directorate general of civil aviation to implement free seat selection rule, offering at least 60% of seats across flights free of seat-selection charge.

This is likely to make flying costlier in the coming days, as airlines have pushed back on the directive.

Class 1 admission: 60-day relaxation in age criterion

Relief for parents; norm applies to LKG, UKG admissions too

BENGALURU, DHNS

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa on Thursday announced a 60-day relaxation in the age eligibility norm for class 1 admissions for the 2026-27 academic year, offering relief to parents whose children fall short of the prescribed age cut-off.

Making a statement in the Legislative Assembly, the minister said that the existing rule mandates that a child must be six years old as of June 1, 2026, for admission into class 1 and the government has decided to allow a temporary relaxation of up to 60 days to address practical difficulties faced

by the parents.

He added that the relaxation extends to LKG and UKG level admissions too.

The minister indicated that the government is in the process of bringing in a regulatory framework—either through a dedicated Act or rules—to streamline admissions in pre-primary classes such as LKG and UKG.

The move comes amid concerns that the online admission system has been automatically blocking entries for children below six years, even in cases where they had already completed UKG.

The minister acknowledged that despite earlier circulars issued by the department, many parents had admitted their children to LKG and UKG at a younger age, leading to complications at the stage of class 1 admission.

Responding to demands from parents for a 90-day relaxation—up to August 31—he maintained that the government has, for now, decided on a 60-day relaxation.

SSLC 3rd language exam postponed to March 31

BENGALURU, DHNS: The SSLC examination for the third language subject, scheduled to be held on March 30, has been postponed by a day following public holiday declared by the state government on account of Mahaveer Jayanti.

In a communication, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) said that the examination will be held on March 31. There will be no changes in the timings and other modalities.

With Hindi being the most-opted third language subject by the students, the pro-Kannada organisations have, meanwhile, threatened the Board to lay a siege to the exam centres on the day of the third language examination.

Following a petition by pro-Kannada organisations demanding the Board to cancel Hindi exam for SSLC, authorities have requested the jurisdictional police to provide necessary security for the centres.

Govt gynaecologists told to stay in assigned living centres

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Health department, in its efforts to strengthen maternal and newborn health services, has prohibited assigning gynaecologists to the nearby tubectomy camps.

Doctors in the particular hospitals must be trained to perform the procedures, it has said.

The department has

also ordered the doctors to stay in the assigned living centres which are nearer to the hospitals and they should not travel to far-off places. To provide care for mothers and the newborn, it is compulsory for the doctors to stay in the assigned living centres, an order issued by the department states.

Doctors have to mark their attendance through

a video-based system, once in the morning and once at 10 pm. They also must ensure uninterrupted supply of blood and other essentials.

To overcome shortage of blood, the doctors should have an agreement with a private blood bank or another government hospital for its supply. The private blood banks must provide 25% of the blood collect-

ed at the blood donation camps to the government hospitals.

The government has also made it compulsory to use ARC Technique (Direct Augmented Reality Computed Tomographic Angiography). The ARC is a surgical technique used to project 3D-reconstructed images of blood vessels (from CT scans) directly onto a patient's body in real-time.

Somanna seeks ST category for Kadugolla community

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Union Minister of State for Railways V Somanna has urged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to include Kadugolla community in the ST category in Karnataka. Somanna, who met Shah in New Delhi recently, submitted a memorandum to him in this regard.

“Kadugolla is the most backward community, both educationally and socially.

Children of this community are deprived of education as the people of this community do not settle in one place, but keep migrating from one place to another to graze cattle and sheep,” Somanna said in his memorandum.

“Sought Shah's intervention in the matter, so that the proposal could be approved at the earliest,” a statement from Somanna said.



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CHANGE OF NAME

Later the Pattadhikara Mahotsava of Koppal Shri Gavisiddeshwara Sansthana Shri Gavimatha Shakha Math's on 11.02.2026, Wednesday, the name SHRI PRASHANTA BASAVARAJAYIA (erstwhile name) Birala B, Taluk Jewargi, Dist. Kalaburgi is changed as SHRI MARISHANTAVEERA SHWAMJI (new name) of Shri Gavisiddeshwara Shakha Math of Kadalabalu, Vijayanagar. The same is registered by Koppal Sub-Registrar on 03.03.2026 vide Doc. No. P.00557.

CHANGE OF NAME

SAINATH PRASANTH REDDY, Residing at No.39/A, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, 1st Block, Banagrinagar, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560 085, have changed my name to SAINATH PRASHANTH REDDY vide affidavit dated 02-03-2026 sworn before notary Mohammed Hussain. K, Reg No.20459, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as SAINATH PRASHANTH REDDY only.

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Huge-sized tableaux displayed during a procession taken out to mark Rama Navami in Belagavi on Thursday. DH PHOTO

Digital repository 'Kanaja' goes dark; dept cites technical migration

Scholars unable to access manuscripts, literary works

ASHWIN B M
BENGALURU, DHNS

Kanaja, an open source online portal for Kannada knowledge launched in 2009, has been inaccessible to the public for over three months. The site, which serves as a digital repository of Kannada literature and history, is currently offline due to the non-renewal of its SSL (Security) certificate and ongoing server issues.

The shutdown has sparked anger among scholars and Kannada enthusiasts who rely on the portal for free access to lakhs of books, dictionaries, and rare manuscripts.

Digital assets at risk

Belur Sudarshan, former co-ordinator of Kanaja and former E-governance advisor to the chief minister, expressed concern over the potential loss of digital assets.

“During the Covid lockdown, I had single-handedly converted about 1.68 lakh pages of more than 800 valuable books into text form using OCR technology and

sent them to Kanaja. Even if we sit down and just do the DTP calculation, its value is at least Rs 50 lakh. I don't know what happened to those digital files that I worked so hard to provide,” Sudarshan told *DH*.

He lamented the Department of Kannada and Culture's apathy towards the state of the portal.

A source who worked with Kanaja earlier said, “The website holds immense amount of data like the complete works of major Kannada writers; also we uploaded thousands of rare videos, photos, hastalipis (handwritten works of great Kannada writers) unpublished books, but now nobody cares or maintains the website properly. However, the delay has already left a vacuum for researchers and students who rely on the portal for dictionaries, glossaries, and ebooks.”

Department officials attributed the downtime to a platform migration. The website originally ran on a WAMP (Windows, Apache, MySQL, PHP) stack, and officials claim there is currently no SSL installation or server support for WAMP-powered applications.

Joint Director of the department Banashankari said, “The website was under maintenance and we were migrating it and is in the process of attaining FSL certificate which is to be renewed every 5 years. The website will be operational from tomorrow.”

NGT disposes of case against Netravati riverfront devpt

BENGALURU, DHNS: The project to develop the riverfront of Netravati in Mangaluru is likely to gather pace with the National Green Tribunal (NGT) disposing of a case against the project by directing Mangaluru Smart City Limited to adhere to the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) rules.

The NGT's southern zone bench of Justice Pushpa Sathyanarayana and expert member Prashant Gargava heard petitioners complaining about some of the works violating the rules.

The bench relied on a report by the joint committee to understand the ground situation.

One of the petitioners had objected to the report stating that mangroves have been damaged, trees were removed and soil was dumped in the intertidal area.

“However, the joint committee had not recorded any of these observations,” the tribunal said, and also pointed to another report by the deputy commissioner that there were “only a few sporadic mangroves” in a few patches and no significant changes were observed.

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CHANGE OF NAME I, MAYURA RAM TEJA GANESHA, No. 06, 9th Cross, 1st Block, Akshaynagar, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru-560 016, have changed my name to MAYURAM TEJA GANESHA vide affidavit dated 13-03-2026 before notary Nijagunardhyaya T.C. Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called MAYURAM TEJA GANESHA only

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Why did forest officials visit Vantara rehab centre, minister asks PCCF

HUBBALLI, DHNS: Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre has written a note to Principal Chief Conservator of Forests seeking information related to Karnataka forest officials, who visited Vantara, a wildlife rescue, rehabilitation and conservation centre, owned by Anant Ambani at Jamnagar in Gujarat.

“Who gave the forest department personnel permission to visit Vantara and what was the purpose of the visit,” the minister asked in the note. He also instructed that henceforth all the visits of forest officials to Vantara or any other private zoos should be approved by the forest minister. Speaking to *DH*, PCCF (Wildlife) Kumar Pushkar said he has forwarded the note to all the units and has sought their replies. “Will provide the details to the minister in seven days,” he said.

Woman ends life with three kids

VIJAYAPURA, PTI: A 28-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide after jumping into a well along with her three minor children in Vijayapura district on Thursday evening, police said.

According to police, the incident occurred in Miragi village of Indi taluk. Rajashree Shankarappa Hallur and her children, Anushree (6), Tanu (3) and Santosh (1), died in the incident. “Preliminary information suggests that the woman first threw her three children into the well and then jumped in,” police said, adding that the exact cause of the incident is yet to be ascertained.

Police said Rajashree's husband, Shankarappa, a private bus driver, was not in the village at the time of the incident. The incident came to light in the evening, and the Indi Rural Police have visited the spot. Further proceedings will be initiated after the husband and other family members arrive.

Rules to prevent deploying teachers for non-teaching work sought

► BENGALURU, DHNS: Members across all parties in the Legislative Council urged the Department of School Education and Literacy to frame rules preventing teachers from being used for non-teaching work, such as election duty, census and caste surveys.

When Minister of School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa presented the Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Teachers' Transfer) (Amendment) Bill for consideration, which classifies schools into three categories and treats them as

Ahead of IPL, Speaker wants four VIP tickets for each MLA

Kashappanavar insists on spl treatment for legislators

BENGALURU, DHNS

Speaker U T Khader on Thursday asked the government to ensure that every lawmaker gets four premium tickets at the Chinnaswamy stadium on match days after members across parties slammed the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) for disrespecting them.

The issue was raised by Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka during a debate on Bengaluru development in the Assembly. “We've given 16.32 acres for the stadium at a monthly rent of Rs 1,600. They make us beg for one ticket. They don't give tickets to MLAs. When they do, the charge is as high as Rs 20,000 per ticket. They're sitting on thousands of crores. We should teach them a lesson,” Ashoka said.

Hungund Congress MLA Vijayanada Kashappanavar demanded five tickets per lawmaker. He urged Khader to ensure that MLAs are given tickets for the March 28 IPL opener between Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad.

Ashoka also questioned why the KSCA has a liquor (excise) licence. “They have permission for cricket. Why have you given them an excise licence? If you tighten this, they'll shut up and fall in line,” he said.

Belgaum Dakshin BJP MLA Abhay Patil sought an investigation into sale of tickets. “They sell tickets in black.



Speaker U T Khader speaks in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

But we (MLAs) don't get tickets even if we want to pay,” he said. Speaker Khader concurred with the MLAs' demands. “The government should take this seriously. Right now, they give ordinary tickets. MLAs have to stand in a queue and personnel there (like watchmen) won't know them and won't

show respect. That's why most MLAs don't even go (to watch matches),” he said.

Khader asked Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, the minister in charge of Bengaluru, to “tell them clearly” and said: “MLAs should get a minimum of four tickets in the VIP stand.”

Bill to protect govt school land okayed

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Legislative Council also passed a bill allowing land donated for government schools to be transferred in the name of the government.

During the session, School Education Minister Madhu Bangarappa introduced the Karnataka Government Educational Institutions Land (Protection and Regularization) Bill-2026.

Members from both ruling and opposition parties welcomed the bill. They suggested relaxing conditions requiring schools to be named after the donor's family, and recommended that assets of closed schools be handed over to other departments for alternative use.

Govt says it is reviewing income limit for 'creamy layer'

Annual income ceiling likely to be hiked to Rs 12 lakh

BENGALURU, DHNS

Karnataka is examining hiking the annual income limit for the 'creamy layer' from the existing Rs 8 lakh, the government told the Legislative Assembly, in what would be a big policy move benefiting large numbers of other backward classes (OBCs).

In a written reply, Backward Classes Welfare Shivaraj Tangadagi said that the government is examining hiking the annual income limit to Rs 12.75 lakh. This is in line with the Union government's decision to exempt citizens earning a salary of up to Rs 12.75 lakh from paying income tax.

At present, OBC families with an annual income ex-

ceeding Rs 8 lakh are considered as 'creamy layer' and ineligible to avail reservation benefits.

Tangadagi's written reply came after the Supreme Court declared that income alone could not determine whether or not a candidate fell under the 'creamy layer' of OBCs.

Currently, the 'creamy layer' policy does not apply to SC/STs and Category-1 of the OBC. It applies to OBC categories 2A, 2B, 3A and 3B. In Karnataka, OBCs have a 32% reservation in education and jobs. The 'creamy layer' policy for OBCs was introduced in 2002 with an annual income limit of Rs 2 lakh. The limit was then increased to Rs 3.5 lakh in 2012, Rs 4.5 lakh in 2013 and Rs 6 lakh in 2015. The next hike came in September 2018 when the annual income limit was fixed at Rs 8 lakh.

Raising the income limit will make lakhs of middle-class OBC families eligible for reservations. The current income limit is seen as outdated given the increased cost

of living due to inflationary trends and changing salary structures.

After the implementation of the 7th Pay Commission, salaries of government employees increased, pushing many into the 'creamy layer' and risking loss of reservation benefits for their children.

In 2024, the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, headed by former MP Jayaprakash Hegde, recommended the introduction of the 'creamy layer' to Category-1 of the OBC.

“Excluding category-1 created an imbalance. Some groups within Category-1 have made significant progress socially and educationally — thanks to reservation,” Hedge told *DH* then.

Also, the Supreme Court, in August 2024, suggested that the 'creamy layer' among Scheduled Castes be excluded from reservation benefits. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has described this stance of the top court as “controversial”.

Reserve Bank of India Department of Supervision, Bengaluru

Press release

Directions under Section 35 A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 – Kanaka Pattana Sahakara Bank Niyamita, Davangere

It is hereby notified for information of the public that in exercise of powers vested in it under sub section (1) of Section 35 A read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide Directive Ref. No. BLR.DOS.QAG.No.S1362/12-07-248/2025-2026 dated March 11, 2026, has issued certain Directions to Kanaka Pattana Sahakara Bank Niyamita, Davangere (the "bank"), whereby, as from the close of business on March 12, 2026, the bank shall not, without prior approval of RBI in writing, grant or renew any loans and advances, make any investment, incur any liability including borrowing of funds and acceptance of fresh deposits, disburse or agree to disburse any payment whether in discharge of its liabilities and obligations or otherwise, enter into any compromise or arrangement and sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any of its properties or assets except as notified in the RBI Directive dated March 11, 2026, a copy of which has been directed to be displayed on the bank's website / premises for perusal by interested members of the public. Considering the bank's present liquidity position, the bank has been directed not to allow any withdrawal from savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor but is allowed to set off loans against deposits subject to the conditions stated in the above RBI Directions. The bank may incur expenditure in respect of certain essential items such as salaries of employees, rent, electricity bills, etc., as specified in the said Directions.

2. RBI has in the recent past engaged with the Board and Senior Management of the bank for improvement in its functioning. However, lack of concrete efforts taken by the bank to address the supervisory concerns and to protect the interest of depositors of the bank, necessitated issuance of these Directions.

3. The eligible depositors would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of their deposits upto a monetary ceiling of ₹5,00,000/- (Rupees five lakh only) in the same capacity and in the same right, from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), as applicable under the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961, based on submission of willingness by the depositors concerned and after due verification. The depositors may contact the bank officials for further information. Details may also be accessed on the DICGC website: www.dicgc.org.in.

4. The issue of the above Directions by the RBI should not per se be construed as cancellation of the banking license by RBI. The bank will continue to undertake banking business subject to restrictions specified in the said Directions till its financial position improves. The RBI continues to monitor the position of the bank and will take necessary actions including modifications of these Directions, as warranted, depending upon circumstances and in the interest of the depositors.

5. These Directions shall remain in force for a period of six months from the close of business on March 12, 2026, and are subject to review.

Bengaluru
Date: March 27, 2026 (Regional Director)

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक पर्यवेक्षण विभाग, बेंगलूरु

प्रेस विज्ञापन

बैंककारी विनियमन अधिनियम, 1949 की धारा 56 के साथ पठित धारा 35ए के अंतर्गत निर्देश - कनक पट्टना सहकारी बैंक नियामिता, दावंगरे

संबंधित जानकारी के लिए यह अधिसूचित किया जाता है कि बैंककारी विनियमन अधिनियम, 1949 की धारा 56 के साथ पठित धारा 35 ए की उपधारा (1) के तहत भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (आरबीआई) की प्रदत्त शक्तियों का प्रयोग करते हुए भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने दिनांक 11 मार्च, 2026 को जारी निर्देश संदर्भ संख्या **BLR.DOS.QAG.No.S1362/12-07-248/2025-2026** के माध्यम से **कनक पट्टना सहकारी बैंक नियामिता, दावंगरे** (‘बैंक’) को कुछ निर्देश जारी किए हैं, जिसके अनुसार, 12 मार्च, 2026 को कारोबार समाप्तिके बाद से, बैंक भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक की लिखित पूर्व अनुमति के बिना कोई ऋण एवं अधिन गति देना या गतिनिष्ठता करना, कोई निष्पक्ष नहीं करना, कोई देयता सीक्योरिटी नहीं करना, विदेशी धन लेना तथा नया ऋण सीक्योरिटी के बिना ही देना, अपनी देयता एवं दायित्वों के निर्वहन या अन्यथा ऋण में कोई भी भूतगत नहीं करना या भूतगत करने के लिए सहमत होना, किसी समझौता या व्यवस्था का निमादन नहीं करना और जैसा कि भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक के दिनांक 11 मार्च, 2026 के निर्देश में सूचित किया गया है, को छोड़कर अपनी संतति या परिश्रमिता का कोई भी हिस्सा नहीं बेचना, खानागारित करना या अन्याय निराकरण करना, जिसकी एक प्रति बैंक की वेबसाइट / परिसर पर रखने का निर्देश दिया गया है ताकि इच्छुक जानकारी वाले द्वारा देखा जा सके। बैंक की वर्तमान वस्तुनिधि स्थिति को ध्यान में रखते हुए, बैंक को बतव खाते या चालू खाते या किसी अन्य खाते से किसी जमाकर्ता द्वारा निधि, आहरण की अनुमति नहीं देने का निर्देश दिया गया है, लेकिन उपरोक्त आरबीआई निर्देशों में वर्णित शर्तों के अधीन जमा राशि के एवज में ऋणों के समंजन (स्टैट ऑफ) करने की अनुमति दी गई है। बैंक कुछ आवश्यक वस्तुओं जैसे कर्मचारियों के वेतन, किराया, बिजली बिल आदि के संबंध में व्यय कर सकता है, जैसा कि उक्त निर्देशों में विनिर्दिष्ट किया गया है।

2. भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने हाल के वर्षों में बैंक के कोई और वस्तुस्थिति के साथ बैंक के कार्यकलाप में सुधार के लिए बाधकता की है। हालांकि, बैंक द्वारा पर्यवेक्षी विभागों को दूर करने और बैंक के जमाकर्ताओं के हितों की रक्षा के लिए ठोस प्रयास न करने के कारण, इन निर्देशों को जारी करना आवश्यक हुआ।

3. पाठ जमाकर्ता डीआईसीसीसी अधिनियम, 1961 के प्रावधानों के अधीन निष्पक्ष बीमा और प्रत्यय गारंटी निगम (डीआईसीसीसी) से ₹5,00,000/- (रुपये पांच लाख मात्र) की मोडिक सीमा तक, उसी क्षमता और उसी अधिकार में, अपनी जमाकर्ताओं की जमा बीमा दावा राशि प्राप्त करने का हकदार होगा जो जमाकर्ताओं द्वारा सहमति प्रस्तुत करने और उचित सलायन के आधार पर लागू होगा। जमाकर्ताओं द्वारा और अधिक जानकारी के लिए बैंक अधिकारियों से संपर्क कर सकते हैं। विस्तृत विवरण डीआईसीसीसी की वेबसाइट www.dicgc.org.in पर भी देखे जा सकते हैं।

4. आरबीआई द्वारा उपरोक्त निर्देशों का जारी करना, स्वयं में, आरबीआई द्वारा बैंक की लाइसेंस के रद्द होने के रूप में नहीं माना जाना चाहिए। बैंक उक्त निर्देशों में निर्दिष्ट प्रतिबंधों के अधीन अपना बीजगत व्यवसाय जारी रखेगा, जब तक कि इसकी वित्तीय स्थिति में सुधार न हो जाए। आरबीआई, बैंक की स्थिति की निगरानी जारी रखेगा और जमाकर्ताओं के हित में तथा परिस्थितियों के आधार पर आवश्यकतानुसार इन निर्देशों में संशोधन सहित आवश्यक कार्रवाई करेगा।

5. ये निर्देश 12 मार्च, 2026 के कारोबार की समाप्ति से छह महीने की अवधि तक लागू रहेंगे और समाप्ति के अधीन होंगे।

बेंगलूरु
दिनांक : 27 मार्च 2026 (क्षेत्रीय निदेशक)

HC issues notices to CM, his wife, in plea against closure report in MUDA case

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday ordered notices to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife B M Parvathi and others, in a petition filed by Snehamayi Krishna, the complainant in the MUDA site allotment case.

The petitioner challenged the MP/MLA special court's decision on January 28, 2026, to accept the 'B' report on January 28, 2026, exonerating Siddaramaiah, his wife and other individuals named in the FIR.

Justice Sunil Dutt Yadav also ordered notices to the Lokayukta police; the Directorate of Enforcement (ED); Devaraj, the original owner who sold the land to Mallikarjuna Swamy (the chief minister's brother-in-law); and G T Dinesh Kumar, a former commissioner of the Mysore Urban Development Authority (MUDA).

Challenging this order, Krishna contended that the land denotification, its subsequent transfer, and the al-

lotment of 14 compensatory sites to Parvathi form a single composite chain of acts.

He further pointed out that the special court permitted investigations against the MUDA officials regarding the same illegalities, while exonerating the chief minister and others in the complaint he filed.

He claimed that the special court artificially compartmentalised what is inherently an individual action by exonerating the beneficiaries, while continuing the investigation against the facilitators.

The complaint stated that Swamy purchased 3.16 acres in Survey Number 464 and 37 guntas in Survey Number 462 at Kesare village, Mysuru taluk, from Devaraj, and the land was denotified. Subsequently, Swamy gifted the land to his sister Parvathi.

The MUDA allegedly allotted Parvathi 14 compensatory sites in Mysuru's upmarket Vijayanagar 3rd and 4th Stages for utilising the land for the layout.



ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
(ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ದತ್ತಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಕಂಠೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ದೇವಾಲಯ, ನಂಜನಗೂಡು

ದೊಡ್ಡಜಾತ್ರೆ ಮಹೋತ್ಸವ - 2026

ಸ್ವಾತಿ ವಿಜಯಾಭ್ಯುದಯ ಶಾಲಿವಾಹನ ಶಕ ವರ್ಷಗಳು 1948ಕ್ಕೆ ಸಲ್ಲುವ ಶ್ರೀ ಪರಾಭನಾಮ ಸಂವತ್ಸರದ 2026ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಶ್ರೀ ಗೌತಮ ಪಂಚಮಹಾರಥೋತ್ಸವ ಮತ್ತು ತತ್ಪೋತ್ಸವದ ವಿವರ

1. ದಿ : 27-03-2026 ಶುಕ್ರವಾರ	ಸಂಜೆ : 7.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	“ಶ್ರೀಕಂಠಮುಡಿ ಉತ್ಸವ”
2. ದಿ : 30-03-2026 ಸೋಮವಾರ	ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ : 5.50 ರಿಂದ 6.30 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ	“ಶ್ರೀ ಮನ್ಮಹಾಸೌತಮ ರಥಾರೋಹಣ”
3. ದಿ : 01-04-2026 ಬುಧವಾರ	ಸಂಜೆ : 7.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ	“ಕಪಿಲಾ ನದಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಪೋತ್ಸವ”

ಭಕ್ತ ಮಹಾಶಯಗಳಾದ ತಾವುಗಳು ಸಪರಿವಾರ ಸಮೇತ ಸದರಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಪಾರ್ವತಿ ಸಮೇತ ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಕಂಠೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿಯವರ ಕೃಪೆಗೆ ಪಾತ್ರರಾಗಬೇಕಾಗಿ ವಿನಂತಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ಆದರದ ಸುಸ್ವಾಗತ

ಸಿ.ಜಿ. ಕೃಷ್ಣ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಶ್ರೀಕಂಠೇಶ್ವರಸ್ವಾಮಿ ದೇವಾಲಯ, ನಂಜನಗೂಡು.	ಡಾ.ಸಿ. ಶಿವರಾಮ. ಕ.ಆ.ಸೇ. ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಪರ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮೈಸೂರು.	ಜಿ. ಲಕ್ಷ್ಮೀಕಾಂತ್‌ರದ್ವಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಮೈಸೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಮೈಸೂರು.	ತರತ್ ಬಿ. ಭಾ.ಆ.ಸೇ. ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಹಿಂದೂ ಧಾರ್ಮಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಧರ್ಮದಾಯ ದತ್ತಿಗಳ ಇಲಾಖೆ
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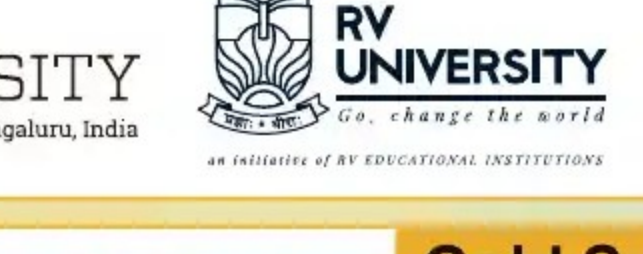


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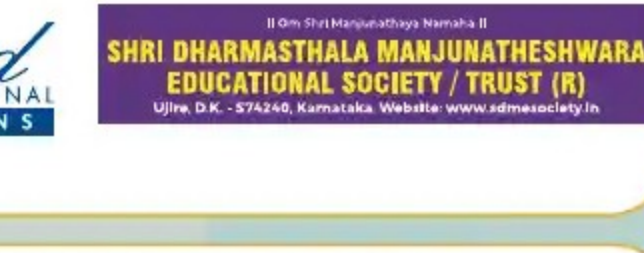
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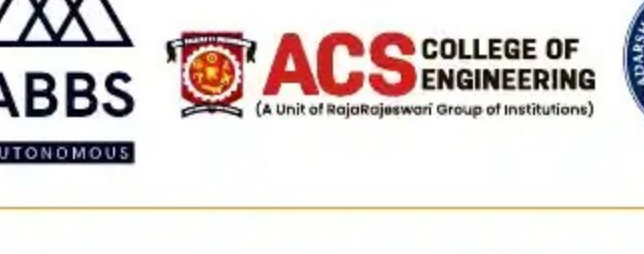
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ASSEMBLY SNIPPETS

Mekadatu, Cauvery Stage VI will make B'loru water secure: DCM

► **BENGALURU, DHNS:** Deputy CM D K Shivakumar said following the Supreme Court rejecting Tamil Nadu's objections to Mekadatu balancing reservoir, would help secure Bengaluru's drinking water supply for the next 25 to 30 years.

The project requires only 600 acres of land acquisition, with the rest being forest submergence. It will generate 400 MW of power and the work will begin in 2 years. Also, Cauvery Stage VI expansion will significantly increase piped Cauvery water supply and is intended to bridge immediate demand-supply gaps before Mekadatu becomes operational. A Rs 6,000-crore DPR has been prepared and approved.

Forest land to be reclaimed from Air Force: Khandre

► **BENGALURU, DHNS:** Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre informed the Assembly that out of the land allotted to Indian Air Force in 1987 at Jarakabande Kaval in Bengaluru North taluk, 452 acres and 4½ guntas is forest land, and this allotment was cancelled in 2017.

Replying to a discussion initiated by Leader of Opposition R Ashoka, he said currently, along with this 452 acres, an additional 83 acres of forest land in Jarakabande and Peenya plantation areas remains under control of Air Force.

Steps will be taken to reclaim this land. Also, money collected for handing over 58.08 acres to the Namma Metro will be recovered and credited to forest department, said the minister. He said compensation to the families of man-animal conflict victims was hiked to Rs 20 lakh, while ruling out government job to the kin of the deceased.

Record 50 members spoke on Budget: Speaker

BENGALURU, DHNS: The just-concluded Legislature session witnessed a record 50 members speaking on the Budget for a cumulative duration of 24 hours and 45 minutes, Speaker UT Khader said on Thursday.

The Assembly also witnessed a record on March 24 (Tuesday), wherein the session began at 11.35 am and ended at 1.42 am on March 25 (Wednesday) - 12 hours and 41 mins overall.

According to data, 2,791 questions had been received. Of this, 180 of the 195 questions to be answered orally (starred questions) and 2,254 of the 2,503 questions to be answered in writing (unstarred questions) were answered.

The session witnessed a rare move, where the Speaker adjourned the House after expressing disappointment that several departments had not adequately answered unstarred questions by legislators. Following this, several departments are believed to have answered more promptly.

Addressing a press conference after the session, he said there were plans to digitalise proceedings and do away with physically circulating documents.

The Speaker said such a plan existed in UP, MP, Kerala, Bihar and other states, adding that the proposed move would be cost-effective and reduce logistics.

According to the Speaker's office, the Union government's team, which has set up offices in respective states, will proceed with the move shortly.

The Speaker plans to remove manual attendance for MLAs and replace it with biometrics. Sources said the process was expected to be implemented by the next session.

Guarantees 'forced' state to cut funds for nutrition: CAG

Report warns of creation of a 'loop of indebtedness'

BENGALURU, DHNS

The flagship 'guarantee' schemes have forced the government to reduce funding for programmes such as nutrition, rural development and slum improvement, a report of the the Comptroller & Auditor General (CAG) has said.

The CAG's report on state finances for the 2024-25 fiscal, tabled in the Assembly on Thursday, warned of a "loop of indebtedness" due to the 'guarantee' schemes.

**The five guarantee schemes implemented by the state government depicted on grains.**

The Congress government spent Rs 52,525 cr on the 'guarantee' schemes in 2024-25.

"The introduction of five guarantee schemes shifted the state from a revenue surplus to revenue deficit in 2023-24 and 2024-25; the deficit is then financed by debt which pushes up the future debt and interest burden, thus creating a loop of indebtedness," the CAG said.

Typically, the CAG said,

borrowings should be used to fund developmental expenditure. "In 2024-25, only 62.12% of the state's borrowings were used for this purpose and a significant portion was utilised to cover the revenue deficit and repayment of earlier debts," it said.

The state's revenue growth, while stable, is "insufficient to absorb the recurring costs of the guarantee schemes", the

report stated. "...and hence the state needs to rely on borrowings to fund the guarantee schemes."

According to CAG, in 2024-25, the government availed of net market borrowings of Rs 71,525.15 cr "to finance the guarantee schemes and the deficits arising thereof".

This is the second time the CAG has flagged the adverse impact of the 'guarantee'

schemes. In August last year, the CAG said the schemes could become "detrimental" to growth.

On Thursday, too, the CAG called for a review of subsidies. "Implementation of the five guarantee schemes in the current form without rationalisation of the existing subsidies/financial assistance or better targeting would place a strain on the state's finances," it said.

Karnataka is "struggling" to maintain debt levels within the sustainability parameters and fiscal deficit within the statutory limits, the CAG said.

"...mobilisation of resources through increased tax compliance (e-Khata) and tax rate enhancements is not matching with the growing expenditure on subsidies and other committed expenditure," the CAG said.

LEADING THE BOYCOTT**Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and other members walk out of the Legislative Council on Thursday. DH PHOTO/PRASHANTH H G**

D'gere South: Cong attempts fail, rebel refuses to budge

DAVANAGERE, DHNS

The efforts of the Congress leaders to convince Sadiq Pailwan, the rebel candidate for Davangere South constituency, went in vain on Thursday, with the latter refusing to budge.

Pailwan's declaration that he decided to contest the election as a rebel to protect the interests of the Muslim community drew huge cheers from the crowd that was gathered outside his house.

In fact, the Congress party delegation received a rather frosty welcome from Pailwan's supporters, with many of them yelling 'Go Back', and giving

Labour unit prez expelled

The Congress expelled Thursday its Davangere unit labour president H Subhan Sab for anti-party activities. He has been expelled for six years for contesting the Davangere South bypoll as a rebel candidate and publicly berating party leaders.

voice of their disappointment with the party's failure to field a Muslim candidate.

"Chief Minister Siddara-

maiah, Deputy CM D K Shivakumar, Minister B Z Zameer Ahmed Khan, among others, have called and asked me to withdraw my candidature. I told each of them that we could sit together, and take a decision. But none came to my house till 2.30pm on Thursday. So, I will not change my decision to contest the byelection," said Pailwan.

Rizwan Arshad, however, insisted that Pailwan remained an integral part of the Congress's family. "He could not withdraw his nomination owing to the lack of time. But we will take the disgruntled youngsters into our confidence," said Arshad.

Nine candidates in the fray in Bagalkot bypoll

BAGALKOT, DHNS: Five candidates who had filed papers for the byelection to Bagalkot seat withdrew on Thursday, leaving nine in the fray.

Umesh Meti (Cong), Veer-

abhadrayya 'Veeranna' Charantimath (BJP), Anthosh Savase of Uttama Prajakiya Party, Tejoramaiha Shetty Devanga from Janata Chaluvali Bharata party, Nagaraja Kalakutagara

from Karnataka Rashtra Samiti, Talawar Shivakumar of Blue India party, Siddappa Godi from All India Janarakasha party, and Independent Anand Jakati are in the fray.

**The Government Flying Training School at Jakkur, set up on land donated by the erstwhile Mysore royal family and inaugurated by the first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, is a legacy that must be protected, Opposition leader R Ashoka urged the government in the Legislative Assembly.**

No plans to shift, shut down Jakkur flying school: DKS

'CM has asked not to bring up matter in his term'

BENGALURU, DHNS

Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar on Thursday told the Legislative Assembly that the Government Flying Training School at Jakkur will not be shifted or shut down.

Replying to a debate on Bengaluru-related issues, Shivakumar said the Cabinet has already decided against shifting the flying school. "The CM has said that the matter should not be brought up during his tenure," he said.

The clarification came after Leader of Opposition R Ashoka said the government was trying to shut down the flying school to benefit real estate interests by handing over 370 acres of prime land near the aerodrome.

Seeking a firm assurance from the government, Asho-

ka said the school, set up on land donated by the erstwhile Mysore royal family and inaugurated by the first prime minister Jawaharlal Nehru, is a legacy that must be protected. "It is the country's first flying club," he said.

Energy Minister K J George pointed to operational challenges and said the flyover near the airstrip is affecting take-offs and that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation is yet to renew the licence of the flying club.

He told the House that while exploring alternative uses, a large sports arena with a stadium having a capacity of one lakh spectators was mooted as the city lacks a football stadium. The proposal, however, was stalled in the Cabinet after concerns over potential allegations, he said.

Ashoka opposed the stadium, citing it would add to the traffic hassles on the airport road and asked the government to drop all plans. Speaker U T Khader asked members to submit suggestions in writing so that the government could discuss with stakeholders.

Panel for better facilities to up enrolment at govt schools

BENGALURU, DHNS: The report of the House committee on backward classes and minority welfare, on the status of government-run residential schools and hostels for students of OBCs, SCs, STs and minority communities, tabled in the Assembly calls for enhancing enrolment of students, better funding and adequate staff recruitment to these schools and hostels.

The panel headed by Tanveer Sait, recommended appointment of wardens and nodal officers at taluk and district level, for better monitoring and to safeguard students from addictions.

It has called for creating facilities for parents' visits. It has suggested the use of CSR funds and education cess to build better infrastructure and for educational progress of students.

According to the report, 2,00,213 students are enrolled across 874 residential schools run by the BC welfare department, against a sanctioned strength of 2,17,970.

The committee has flagged

a shortage of Rs 736 crore against the released funds of Rs 1,625 crore. It has sought budget grants of Rs 5,323 crore for the overall management and upgrading of these schools for 2026-27.

Also, there are 5,144 posts (including 3,805 teaching posts) are vacant against 19,860 sanctioned posts. Only 669 out of 874 schools have their own buildings.

Of the 2,15,120 sanctioned strength across classes (class 6 to II PUs), there were 2,01,896 student enrolments.

Also, out of 2,659 hostels, only 1,644 have own buildings. Of the 14,340 sanctioned posts, there are 8,343 posts lying vacant, which include 864 male supervisor and 403 female supervisor posts.

The student enrolments across 891 schools run by the minorities welfare department is 52,162 against a sanctioned strength of 67,019, which includes Muslims (32,871), Christians (658), Jains (1,320), Buddhists (12), Parsi or Sikh (4) and others (17,297).

CM defends taking flights for short distances, says it saves time

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah countered the Opposition BJP in the Legislative Council on Thursday, over his air travel expenses, by placing details of air travel expenses by his predecessor Basavaraj Bommai, of the BJP.

During his reply on the budget, Siddaramaiah cited criticism by BJP's H Vishwanath, over the money spent on air travel by the chief minister.

Countering Vishwanath's statement that the CM was spending taxpayers' money for a one-hour journey between Bengaluru and Mysuru, Siddaramaiah questioned, "If what I am spending is taxpayers' money, what did Basavaraj Bommai do?"

He said, "Basavaraj Bommai had spent Rs 37 crore in 2022-23. Was it not extravagant spending?"

As informed to the House, Siddaramaiah spent Rs 54

Hike special grant to Rs 5 cr, urge MLCs

Members demanded that the chief minister increase their special grant to at least Rs 5 crore, so that they could take up development works in their constituencies.

When JD(S)' S L Bhojgowda raised the issue, he found support from other

members. Chairperson Basavaraj Horatti also demanded that Siddaramaiah announce it in the House.

Bhojgowda said the government allocated Rs 2 crore per year to each MLC, which is not sufficient for any member and demand-

ed that the amount be raised to Rs 5 crore.

Horatti said there were many elected members and they represented multiple districts. "Please take a decision and announce it here," Horatti said. Siddaramaiah said he would consider the request.

Reference to DH article

In his speech, Siddaramaiah made references to budget coverage by various newspapers, including an editorial in *Deccan Herald*.

He also made a special reference to the article 'Karnataka leads growth trajectory as southern states perform well: Rubix data science', published in *DH*.

crore on air travel in the last three years.

"In 2023-24, I spent Rs 12 crore and in 2024-25 and 2025-26, it was Rs 21 crore each. Tell me, who spent more?," Sidda-

ramaiah said.

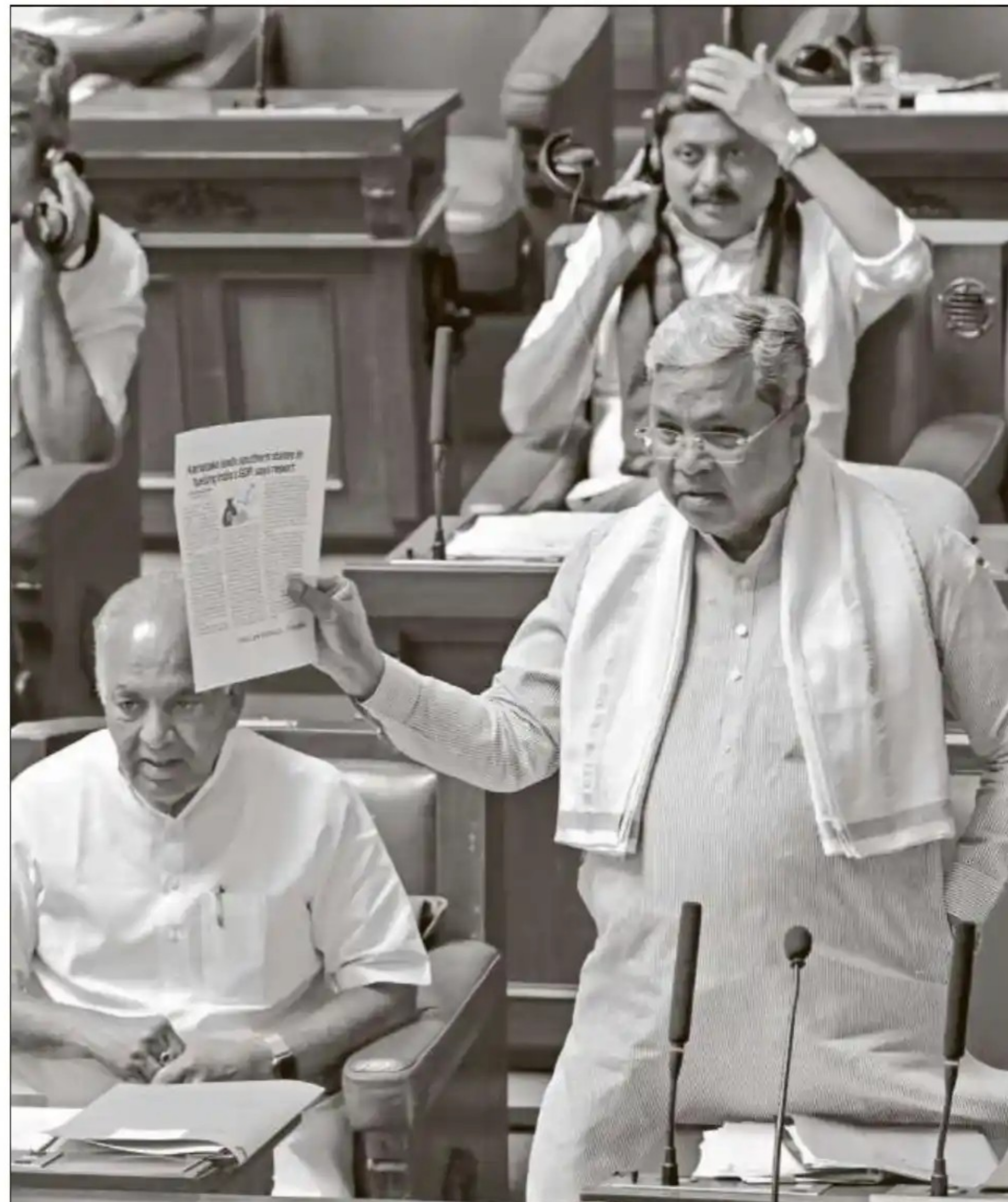
The BJP members replied, "We are not questioning your Delhi trips, we are concerned about spending on special flights to Chikkaballapur,

which is just 60 km from Bengaluru".

Siddaramaiah defended his frequent air travels, even for short distances, saying, "The CM has long hours of work. To save time, he has to take flights"

Citing the money spent by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on foreign trips, he said, "The prime minister has spent Rs 814 crore," asking if BJP members were aware of it.

BJP and JD(S) members walked out, expressing dissent over the budget.

**Chief Minister Siddaramaiah replies to the Opposition during the budget session in the Legislative Council.****Will address transgenders' woes: Siddu**

The chief minister promised that he would hold a meeting with social welfare department officials to address issues related to transgenders.

Responding to BJP's Bharathi Shetty, who demanded that the CM take measures to provide education, housing, old age homes and other facilities to transgenders, he said, "Our government is committed to social justice. I will seriously take the suggestions of the member. I will hold a meeting with the minister and officials concerned".

NHAI to build
3.23-km service
road for Rs 22 cr
to decongest Sira

BENGALURU, DHNS: The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has invited bids for the construction of a service road on the Sira bypass on NH 48 (Bengaluru-Pune Road) at a cost of Rs 22.10 crore.

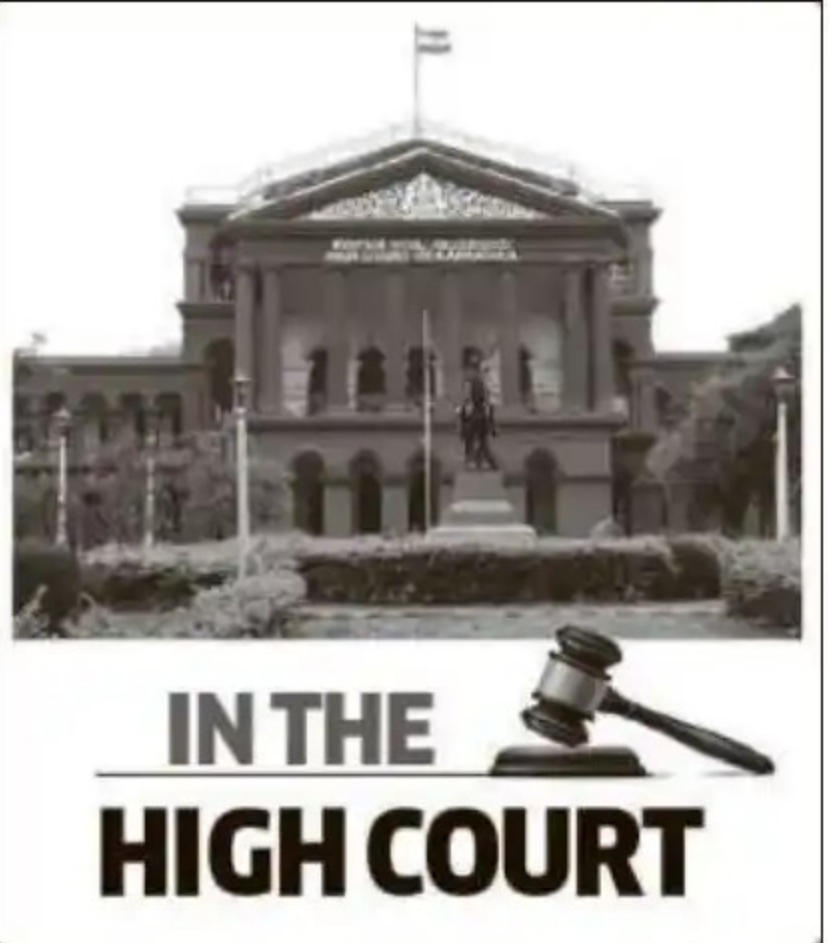
The scope of work includes constructing two-lane service roads spanning 3.23 km in two stretches (2.28 km and 0.95 km) on either side of the Sira bypass, including necessary cross drainage structures, within the 114-km Tumakuru-Chitradurga section, the NHAI said.

The project will be executed under the Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) mode, and will be awarded through a competitive bidding process to the lowest evaluated responsive bidder, the NHAI, in a statement, added.

This project aims to cater to the needs of local commuters and support the growing urban development of Sira town.

The proposed service roads will help segregate local and highway traffic, reducing conflict points with the main carriageway and significantly enhancing road safety.

“These initiatives reflect NHAI’s continued commitment to strengthening road safety and delivering high-quality national highway infrastructure across the country,” said Vilas Brahmanekar, Regional Officer, NHAI, Bengaluru.



HC notice to
state in PIL on
eviction of forest
encroachments

BENGALURU, DHNS: The High Court of Karnataka has ordered notice to the government in a PIL challenging the September 21, 2015, government order regarding eviction of forest encroachments.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C M Poonacha also ordered notice to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Karnataka, in the petition filed by Jagadeesha, a resident of Bengaluru.

In the September 21, 2015 notification, the state government had directed the authorities not to evict forest encroachments below three acres until further orders and that proposals will be submitted for rehabilitation of such encroachers.

The petitioner contended that till date, no such rehabilitation measures have been taken, and large tracts of forest lands continue to remain encroached upon.

The petitioner submitted official data contending that the encroachment of forest land has increased alarmingly from 42,518 acres in July 1995 to 1,65,796 acres by October 2014 and further increased to 2,04,442 acres as on September 21, 2015.

‘Land divided amongst
family members’

The petitioner stated that the 2015 government order has effectively allowed illegal occupation of forest lands.

This has resulted in large-scale misuse, and several encroachers have divided the encroached land amongst family members by taking advantage of the government order.

“This contravenes the mandate of Forest Conservation Act and Supreme Court’s judgement in T N Godavarma Thirumulpad vs Union of India case,” the petitioner said.

India’s installed power generation
capacity to double in 10 years

70% of installed capacity to
come from non-fossil sources

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

India’s electricity generation capacity is projected to more than double, from 520.5 GW as of January 31, 2026, to 1,121 GW by March 2036, with the share of non-fossil sources expected to reach 70% of the total installed capacity, compared to 52% at present.

The latest assessment comes in the ‘National Generation Adequacy Plan’ released by the Central Electricity Authority.

“India has successfully demonstrated its transition towards clean energy by accelerating the pace of renewable capacity addition,” the report

said, pointing to the addition of 43 GW renewable energy (RE) sources in the last one year.

Going by the projected numbers, solar photovoltaic is expected to lead the transition with the installed capacity reaching 509 GW, from 176 GW in 2026-27. Wind is set to grow from 63 GW to 155 GW during the same time. Coal-dependent generation capacity is expected to jump from 237 GW to 315 GW in 10 years, a growth of 33%.

The peak electricity demand and electrical energy requirement in 2035-36 are 459 GW and 3,365 billion units, respectively. The report emphasises the need to minimise the total system cost of generation while ensuring that



The share of non-fossil sources is expected to reach 70% of the total installed capacity, compared to 52% at present, in the next 10 years as per the national generation adequacy plan released by the Central Electricity Authority.

all technical parameters associated with different power generation technologies are satisfied.

The government’s non-fossil matrix also involves “likely growth” of nuclear-based generation capacity to reach 100 GW by 2047.

Emphasis on storage
Recognising the gap in energy storages, which has led to

stranding of renewable energy, the CEA looked at the need for energy storage facilities. The authority has projected a requirement of 80 GW installed capacity of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and 94 GW of pumped storage system, which requires a massive scale up from the current numbers of 6 GW and 5 GW, respectively.

“As evident from recent

tenders, the cost of BESS has reduced, and solar-plus BESS has emerged as an alternative to meet electricity demand during solar hours and morning/evening peak/high demand (non-solar) hours,” it said, pointing to the need for “firm power sources” in the system which can be dispatched 24x7 round the year.

Vibhuti Garg, Director South Asia, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, welcomed India’s current achievements in renewable energy and the projected numbers.

“However, the real test lies not in capacity addition, but in how effectively this generation is utilised. Currently, over 37 GW of renewable energy capacity remains stranded—high-lighting gaps in planning, integration, and grid readiness,” she said, adding that accelerating renewable energy integration and electrification of industry will help build energy security.

BRISK WORK



The pouring of concrete for the construction of fifth unit of the nuclear power plant is progressing at a brisk pace at Kaiga near Karwar in Uttara Kannada district on Thursday.

Doubling, electrification
of Gadag-Hotgi railway
line completed

Second line of
Almatti-Wandala
stretch gets
CRS nod

ALMATTI (VIJAYAPURA DIST),
DHNS

The commissioner of railway safety (CRS) has approved the running of trains on the second line on the 10-km Almatti-Wandala stretch of the Gadag-Hotgi route.

This also marks the completion of the line doubling work on the entire 284-km Gadag-Hotgi route. Electrification works have also been completed on the route.

A team of railway safety officials led by the CRS inspected the second line, with trains running on it in both directions at a speed of 100 kmph on Wednesday night.

The CRS then gave clearance for running trains on the stretch.

Regular train services on this stretch started on Thursday itself, with a speed of 90 kmph allowed for now, railway



The commissioner of railway safety and other officials inspect the second line of the Almatti-Wandala stretch, sitting in an inspection trolley atop a bridge across the backwaters of the Almatti reservoir.

officials said.

Work had gained momentum in the last one year, especially the last two months on the Almatti-Wandala stretch.

There were many challenges in executing the work, including steel bridges, officials said.

Trains had stopped running on the Almatti-Wandala stretch in the last four months to facilitate the doubling and electrification work.

The completion of the work was crucial to help transport coal fast to the Kudgi thermal power plant as goods

and passenger trains were forced to depend on the single line.

The National Thermal Power Corporation had provided grants for the project.

Work on the doubling and electrification of the Gadag-Hotgi route was on for the past eight years.

The Almatti-Wandala stretch offers a panoramic view for up to 3 km, of the backwaters of the Almatti reservoir across River Krishna. The 10-km stretch has three stations: Almatti, Benala and Vandala.

14 killed as private bus catches
fire after collision in AP

Bus accident, from Page 1

The chief minister convened a teleconference with senior officials soon after the incident. The collector indicated that critically injured victims may be transferred to advanced medical facilities in Guntur.

The CM directed the officials to ensure the best possible care for the injured, provide adequate compensation to the affected families, and conduct a thorough investigation into the accident.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an ex gratia of Rs 2 lakh from the PMNRF to the next of kin of each deceased and Rs 50,000 to each injured.

The state government announced an ex gratia of Rs 5 lakh to the families of the deceased.

‘Snag led to mishap’

The vehicle had developed a snag approximately an hour before the accident, forcing it to halt at Yerragondapalem, said the bus cleaner.

“About an hour before the accident, we had to stop due to a technical snag as the sensors had jammed. The driver tried to fix it, and we resumed the journey. Suddenly, at the Rayavaram turn, the steering wheel locked and the vehicle veered onto the right side. A gravel-laden tipper truck was coming from the opposite direction, and our bus ran straight into it. Everything happened in a fraction of a minute. I was thrown out of the window on impact,” said the cleaner who is undergoing treatment.

Home Minister V Anitha, who visited the accident site, ordered a detailed probe into the incident.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka.

Forecast March 27: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH				
Stations	Max	Min	Rain	
Belagavi	34.8	19.4	0.3	
Bidar	35.6	20.8	00	
Vijayapura	35.5	19.4	00	
Dharwad	34	17.5	00	
Haveri	33.8	20	00	
Kalaburagi	37.4	24	00	
Raichur	37	22	00	
COASTAL				
Honnavar	33.7	23.6	00	
Karwar	35.6	23.4	00	
Shirali	NA	NA	NA	
Manгалuru	33.9	26	00	

INTERIOR SOUTH				
Stations	Max	Min	Rain	
Agumbe	31.8	20.2	00	
Bengaluru	34.5	21	00	
Ballari	NA	NA	NA	
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA	
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA	
Chitradurga	35.3	20.1	00	
Davangere	35	18.5	00	
Hassan	33.7	14.4	00	
Mysuru	35	23	00	
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA	
Kolar	34.8	16.2	00	

OTHER STATIONS				
New Delhi	33.5	19.2	00	
Kolkata	34.8	25.4	00	
Mumbai	34.6	24.5	00	
Chennai	34.8	25	00	
Pune	37.7	20.4	00	
Hyderabad	35.2	23.1	00	
Tirupuram	36.1	24.1	00	

KARNATAKA RURAL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT LTD.
(Formerly Karnataka Land Army Corporation Limited)
No.1106, 10th Main Road, RPC Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru - 560040

No.EE-4/KRIDL/TENDER/2025-26/1341 **Dated:26.03.2026**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of Managing Director, KRIDL, Executive Engineer, BBMP Division-4, invites e-tender through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (KPPP) for the works with Tender Reference No.(KRIDL/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT 38, 39 and 44 respectively) under two cover system with Approximate Project cost for each works amounting to Rs.995.00 Lakhs and EMD Amount of Rs.13.50 Lakhs. Interested Contractors/Firms who wish to participate in the tender can view, download and apply only through KPPP <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. The schedule of specified Tenders are as under;

Tender Publish Date	26.03.2026
Last date and time for online queries	02.04.2026, 17:30
Date and time for Pre-Bid Meeting	07.04.2026, 11:30
Last date and time for receipt of tender	15.04.2026, 15:00
Date of Opening of Technical Bid & Time	18.04.2026, 15:30
Date of Opening of Financial Bid & Time	27.04.2026, 15:30

For more information, visit <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer-4
KRIDL, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/6467/CCL/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Belagavi

ಕೃ.ಸಂ.ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಜೆ/ಬಿಬಿ-1/ಟೆಂಡರ್-72/2025-26/8385 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.03.2026

Tender Invited (E-Procurement)

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi hereby invited tender from Registered Contractors for the Item rates through kppp Portal. There are total 4 (**Improvement of road from Chainage Km 0.00 to Km 3.00 on Goutan Road at Teggihaal Village in Saundatti Taluk Belagavi Dist (22698), Improvement of roads in Balekundri BK village of Belgaum taluk RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT25379, 25703, 13912**) work have been called. Standard of tender documents **KW-1, 2, 3** for price of Highest and Lowest Estimated Cost **Rs. 150.00** Lakhs and **Rs. 2.50 Lakh** respectively and also Highest and Lowest EMD has As Per E-procurement for each work. The last date for Submission of any quarries is **10-04-2026 17:28 PM**, the last date for submission of tender bid is on **10-04-2026 17:30 PM**. Opening of technical bid is on **13-04-2026 11-00 AM** and Expected Financial bid will be opened on **13-04-2026 11:30 AM**. For any other information/ clarifications please contact the below signed office, and also search internet for kppp-Portal website <http://kppp-proc.karnataka.gov.in>

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/2159/2025-26/Deshpandepublicity

Executive Engineer, Public Works
Department, Kolar Division, Kolar-563101

e-mail: eepwdkolar07@gmail.com
website: www.kpwd.gov.in
e-portal: <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>
Phone No. 08152-222022

e-tender Notification – K.W. 4 Short Re Term
Tender notification No: 35/2025-26
Dt. 26.03.2026

Tender is invited through e-Procurement for works in the limits of KGF Taluk Kolar District Public Works Department from the Class-1&2 PWD Registered Contractors under **H/A: 4059-CMIDP** Estimate cost : 255.00 Lakhs EMD Amount: mentioned in KPP Portal, Period for completion of work: 6 months. Contractors may download the tender documents **KW- 4** from Karnataka State Procurement portal (**viz., <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>**). Filled in tenders shall be uploaded **on or before 16.00 hours. on 06.04.2026** through Karnataka State Procurement portal. Tenders received will be **opened after 16.30 hours on 07.04.2026** in KPP portal. Further details regarding the works and also for details about this tender notification please contact KPP portal and also you may contact this office during working hours. **Note:** Any changes in this Notification will be published in KPP portal only.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Kolar

DIPR/KOLAR/RO:556/KSMCA/2025-26

Job fair on Apr 7

► BENGALURU, DHNS: The Sub-Regional Employment Exchange Office, Bengaluru, has organised a job fair on April 7 from 8.30 am to 5 pm at Acharya Institutions, Dr S Radhakrishnan Road, Soladevanahalli. Candidates with qualifications such as SSLC, PUC, degree, ITI, diploma, BE and postgraduate degrees can participate by registering on <https://docs.google.com/forms/u/7/d/1xEhF2ert-9lagBXmYn6jTjeSMynEVEWt9c3jM12DDPmQ/edit>.

Get serious, make deal: Trump warns Tehran

Iran, From Page 1

The official said the proposal “was reviewed in detail on Wednesday night by senior Iranian officials and the representative of Iran’s Supreme Leader”. “In brief, the proposal suggests that Iran would relinquish its ability to defend itself in exchange for a vague plan to lift sanctions,” he said, adding that the proposal lacked the minimum requirements for success.

Trump earlier this week cryptically said that Iran “gave

us a present”. He revealed the gift during Thursday’s Cabinet meeting.

Trump said that Iranian officials, with whom the US is engaging in backchannel talks, are allowing “eight boats of oil” to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, suggesting it was an apparent act of good faith for negotiations.

“They said, to show you the fact that we’re real and solid and we’re there, we’re going to let you have eight boats of oil, eight boats, eight big boats of oil,” Trump said. “I guess they

were right, and they were real, and I think they were Pakistani-flagged... It ended up being 10 boats.”

Trump’s envoy Steve Witkoff confirmed the US has presented a 15-point “action list” to Iran. “If we can convince Iran that this is the inflection point, with no good alternatives for them other than more death and destruction... We have strong signs that this is a possibility, and if a deal happens, it will be great for the country, for Iran and the entire region and the world at

large.” Meanwhile, a group of ships, including the USS Tripoli, drew closer to West Asia with some 2,500 Marines, even as the Israeli military sent another division into southern Lebanon, stepping up a ground offensive against Hezbollah.

Israel also said it carried out a wave of attacks targeting Iranian infrastructure early Thursday. Loud booms could be heard across Israel as it was repeatedly targeted by barrages from Iran.



DECCAN HERALD

ESTABLISHED 1948

Conversion ruling ignores lived reality

The Supreme Court’s ruling that conversion to any religion other than Hinduism, Buddhism, and Sikhism would result in the “immediate and complete loss” of the Scheduled Caste status and statutory benefits and protections does not recognise the intricacies of India’s caste system and its hold on society. It also leaves some legal issues relevant to the matter unresolved. The ruling is based on the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, which mandates that “no person who professes a religion different from Hinduism shall be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste”. Later, Sikhism and Buddhism were added to this order. A bench of Justices Prashant Mishra and Manmohan upheld an order of the Andhra Pradesh High Court that dismissed a petition filed by a person who had converted to Christianity but claimed protection under the SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act after suffering casteist attacks.

India’s reality of caste as a social institution and personal expression does not disappear with a change of religion.

Members of the Scheduled Castes who convert to Christianity and Islam have also experienced discrimination. Sikhism doctrinally rejects the caste system, but divisions along these lines are real. In an unequal society, conversion to another religion does not ensure equality for the converted. The ruling is based on the restrictions spelled out in the 1950 order – the Court termed them “categorical and absolute.” But petitions challenging the validity of the order are pending in the Court. The position that converts would lose their reservation rights may also not align with the constitutional right to freedom of religion and the right to equality.

The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950, does not prescribe religion-based exclusion as in the case of the Scheduled Castes. It says a person’s ST status is based on tribal identity, customary practices, etc., and not on religion. The Court has now ruled that a convert from an ST community could claim benefits only if he or she continued to belong to the tribe in substance. This amounts to extending the bar for SC converts to the reservation for STs. The question might also arise if members of OBCs (Other Backward Classes) would lose their rights if they converted to non-Indic religions. The Justice Ranganath Mishra Commission report, in 2007, recommended SC reservation for Dalit converts to Christianity and Islam. It is noteworthy that the Central government rejected the report and established another commission, under Justice KG Balakrishnan, which has yet to submit its findings.

Caste shapes Indian identity beyond religion, a hard truth the Supreme Court order fails to consider

Towing returns as quick-fix reform

The decision to reintroduce vehicle towing in Bengaluru marks a cautious return to an enforcement tool that had once become synonymous with public anger. Under the new framework, towing charges have been fixed at Rs 650 for two-wheelers and Rs 1,000 for cars, over and above existing penalties. While the vehicles will be provided by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), the traffic police will enforce violations. At first glance, this appears to be a more structured, accountable system, but it must be recognised that towing alone cannot resolve a deeper, systemic problem. Towing was suspended in 2022 following widespread allegations of harassment, corruption, and procedural violations. Private contractors, driven by revenue targets, often operated with impunity – ignoring due process and behaving rudely with the public. The absence of adequate parking infrastructure compounded the problem. Motorists were penalised not merely for indiscipline, but often for the city’s own planning failures.

If the relaunch is to succeed, it must begin with a fundamental correction: clearly demarcated and universally understood parking zones. Much of Bengaluru’s parking chaos stems from ambiguity. Streets lack consistent signage, markings are faded or contradictory, and enforcement varies wildly across neighbourhoods. Without clarity, towing may once again risk becoming arbitrary, eroding public trust. Equally troubling is the breakdown of the ‘pay and park’ ecosystem. Parking meters along key thoroughfares have fallen into disuse, victims of administrative transition and contracts that have ended but not been renewed. This has led to haphazard parking. The move towards app-based ‘virtual slots’ remains a work in progress. In the interim, motorists are left navigating a system that neither functions physically nor fully exists digitally. Enforcement in such a vacuum may seem inherently unjust.

What, then, should be done? First, the GBA and traffic police must establish a transparent and standardised parking policy – clearly marked zones and the long-overdue digital intervention. Second, enforcement must strictly adhere to standard operating procedures, with prior warnings, police supervision, and accountability through body cameras, to avoid the arbitrariness of the past. Third, towing should not be seen by the police as a tool for revenue generation. Most importantly, Bengaluru must resist the temptation of piecemeal fixes. Towing vehicles address only symptoms, not causes. The city urgently requires an updated comprehensive mobility plan – integrating public transport, last-mile connectivity, parking management, and road design into a coherent whole. Without such a holistic approach, the return of towing may become a replay of the past: a visible assertion of authority, but a failure of governance.

For the measure to work, Bengaluru must back it with strong parking policies and mobility planning

JUSTICE DEFERRED

Truth about AI171: Power games and planted theories

System failure is a distinct possibility. India must not let geopolitical pressures shape the probe’s outcome

S RAGHOTHAM

A petition seeking an independent, court-monitored investigation into the AI171 crash in Ahmedabad last June was stalled yet again on Tuesday, as the Solicitor General of India sought another week to submit a progress report on the Aircraft Accident Investigation Board (AAIB) probe. On February 11, he had promised to submit the same at the next hearing, which the court had set for March 24.

Interestingly, a day before the SG’s assurance, an intriguing report by aviation journalist Leonard Berberi appeared in the Milan-based newspaper *Corriere della Sera*. Since the crash, Berberi has run a stream of stories, citing unnamed “Western sources”, pushing a single line: the crash was the result of deliberate pilot action.

Berberi’s February 10 report claimed that the AAIB had been forced to come around to the same view – “the desired turning point”, as per his sources – under pressure and “Western” threats of a re-evaluation of the level of safety of India’s airlines. Berberi’s sources told him the conclusion would be subject to a “political evaluation” at the highest levels in India. AAIB officials had reportedly even discussed with American counterparts how to write the final report without triggering “national controversies”.

Read with earlier leak-driven reporting in the *Wall Street Journal*, it is clear that this investigation was never just about finding out what happened to AI171. It is part of a geopolitical power play between India and the United States.

The AAIB’s preliminary report carried the imprint of this tension. It laid out a sequence of the crash: three seconds after take-off, both fuel switches transitioned from “run” to “cut-off” within a second of each other, starving the engines and causing the crash. Then, it released a tantalising paraphrased conversation in which one pilot asks the other “why did he cut off”, and the other replies he “did not do so”. It also referred to a 2018 FAA advisory regarding the fuel switches, suggesting a known, unresolved problem with them.

The effect, intended or not, was that attention stayed on the fuel switches and pilot actions, ensuring that a con-

clusion could not be reached. Yet, there is a far more coherent explanation: that AI171 was brought down by a systemic failure in the Boeing 787 – one shaped by technology design choices, compounded by manufacturing defects, and triggered by proximate maintenance failures.

The 787 is a “more electric” and software-driven aircraft, with algorithmic decision-making systems written to override pilot controls based on sensor inputs – the FADEC (Full Authority Digital Engine Control) and TCMA (Thrust Control Malfunction Accommodation). Older aircraft distributed risk across multiple, largely independent systems. The 787 cen-



tralises it. At the heart of this architecture is the Common Core System (CCS) – comprising a Common Computing Resource, a Common Data Network, and Remote Data Concentrators. It reduces weight and complexity, but creates multiple pathways to failure.

The plausible other scenario

An electrical transient, a software glitch, a bad sensor input, a momentary loss of power routing or data synchronisation – any of these, especially during take-off, can cascade into a catastrophe. Boeing’s recent history provides context. The 737 Max crashes were traced to the MCAS (Manoeuvring Characteristics Augmentation System) software acting on flawed sensor inputs. Boeing and American regulators tried hard to place the blame on pilots, but Ethiopian accident investigators forced the truth out. The 787’s TCMA is also an algorithmic correction mechanism. If it receives bad data, it can make the wrong decision.

Multiple Boeing whistleblowers have revealed several manufacturing defects in the 787s, especially the early batches from which the VT-ANB, the AI171 aircraft, came to Air India: structural gaps, force-fit assembly prac-

tices, and water leakage from toilets into electrical bays. Then there’s the history of 787 incidents: battery fires, control failures, fuel leaks, and even fuel switch issues.

Consider the aircraft that crashed. In January, Ed Pierson, a former Boeing manager, submitted a study on the VT-ANB’s fault logs and maintenance history to a US Senate committee, citing electronics and software faults. Journalist Rachel Chitra’s investigative reporting uncovered that the aircraft reported multiple faults in the 72 hours before the crash, including a sensor fault that forced a hard landing into Ahmedabad on the fateful day. The AAIB preliminary report notes that the aircraft flew with four active faults. The PIL in the Supreme Court by Capt. Amit Singh of Safety Matters Foundation revealed that 15 minutes before take-off, both Bus Power Control Units reported faults. Yet the aircraft was cleared to fly.

Independent analyses by pilots, engineers, and investigators have converged on the same conclusion: the pilot action theory does not fit the observed sequence of events. A cascading systemic failure does.

The opacity on all sides suggests there is a negotiation underway over the truth. After all, the stakes are enormous. For Boeing, another finding of systemic failure could be devastating. The company is of strategic interest to America. Its decline would open space for China’s COMAC. For the Federal Aviation Administrator, it could mean the erosion of its credibility globally. Air India faces exposure regardless of the outcome, whether systemic and maintenance failures caused the crash or one of its pilots did.

Geopolitically, a finding against Boeing could strain India-US relations at a delicate moment. New Delhi has to reckon with Donald Trump, who calls himself Boeing’s best salesman. People will come to their own conclusions as to whether they saw Prime Minister Narendra Modi standing up to American pressure or giving in. India has not forgotten the Bhopal gas tragedy and that Warren Anderson and Union Carbide Chemicals went scot-free, following a meagre \$470-million settlement.

The world is watching whether India can safeguard its interests and secure justice for its citizens, as Ethiopia did following the Boeing 737 Max crash. In the AI171 case, therefore, the truth is in India’s national interest. It should not be negotiated away. India owes it to the 260 people who died and to their families.

(The writer is a senior journalist and researcher based in Bengaluru; Syndicate: The Billion Press)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A clash behind the curtain

When a star performance overran, diplomacy had to take centre stage

GOPALAKRISHNA H N

I recall a time when large industrial houses such as HAL, MICO, ITI and KEC in Bengaluru were also significant cultural forces. Bharat Electronics, a multi-unit company with a country-wide presence was – and remains – one of them. My tenure as president of the Fine Arts Club of BEL, in my later years of service, was filled with memorable incidents, some of them quite challenging.

One such occasion was a grand four-day inter-unit cultural festival held in Kuvempu Kalakshetra, a state-of-the-art auditorium in the city. As a senior officer and president of the host unit’s cultural club, the responsibility for the

smooth conduct of the event rested on my shoulders. The company’s top brass attended in full strength, watching employees they knew only as skilled professionals reveal their artistic flair. As one senior officer aptly remarked, “It was a miniature India, displaying its cultural heritage through diverse mediums and languages.”

Each unit had a one-hour slot to showcase its talent. On the inaugural day, the team from Unit M took the stage first and captivated the audience with a variety of performances. Their final act – a solo folk dance by a talented artist – held the audience spellbound.

Encouraged by the enthusiastic response, the performer continued beyond his allotted time. Repeated warning bells failed to stop him. The team from Unit K, scheduled next, grew impatient in the green room and compelled the stage manager to lower the curtain. The abrupt halt shocked the audience and infuriated the team.

Sensing some trouble, I rushed to the green room only to find Team M agitated and preparing to stage a protest against what they saw as an insult to their star performer. They even threatened to boycott the evening dinner hosted by the management. We were confident of pacifying them and resolving the situation – the fault after all lay with them – but communication proved difficult. They spoke only their mother tongue and were in no mood to listen.

Fortunately, an officer from their unit, who had sensed the tension, followed me backstage. Using all our conciliating skills and his rapport with the team, we managed to bring the situation under control, calm the team and heave a huge sigh of relief. While all this was going on backstage, we completely missed Team K’s enthralling performance, as was evident by the resounding applause they were getting. Even so, we had the quiet satisfaction of having saved the day for our organisation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India must look beyond fossil fuels

I refer to ‘Oil shocks and energy sovereignty’ (Mar 26). India’s dependence on imported fossil fuels, particularly from the Gulf and Saudi Arabia, leaves our energy security vulnerable to geopolitical disruptions such as those in the Strait of Hormuz. India remains heavily vulnerable to supply shocks. At the same time, India’s electricity demand is rising rapidly, driven by domestic consumption, AI, data centres, manufacturing, and electric vehicles. To secure its future, India must look beyond

fossil fuels. Nuclear energy offers the nearest clean, scalable, and dependable solution with the development of Small Modular Reactors. These reactors are safe, efficient, and capable of meeting both our development needs and climate commitments. By expanding nuclear power alongside renewables, India can achieve energy sovereignty, reduce carbon emissions, and ensure uninterrupted progress.

HN Ramakrishna, Bengaluru

Keep people informed

With reference to ‘LPG crisis: Households still not out of woods’ (Mar 26), even though the official stance is that there is no shortage of LPG in India, the ground reality appears to be different. People are

still waiting for many days to receive their gas cylinders, making daily life very difficult. The authorities must take this matter seriously and ensure that gas cylinders are supplied on time. Proper planning and clear information can help reduce the panic.

Maria Jessica S, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: letters@deccanherald.co.in (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender’s postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT



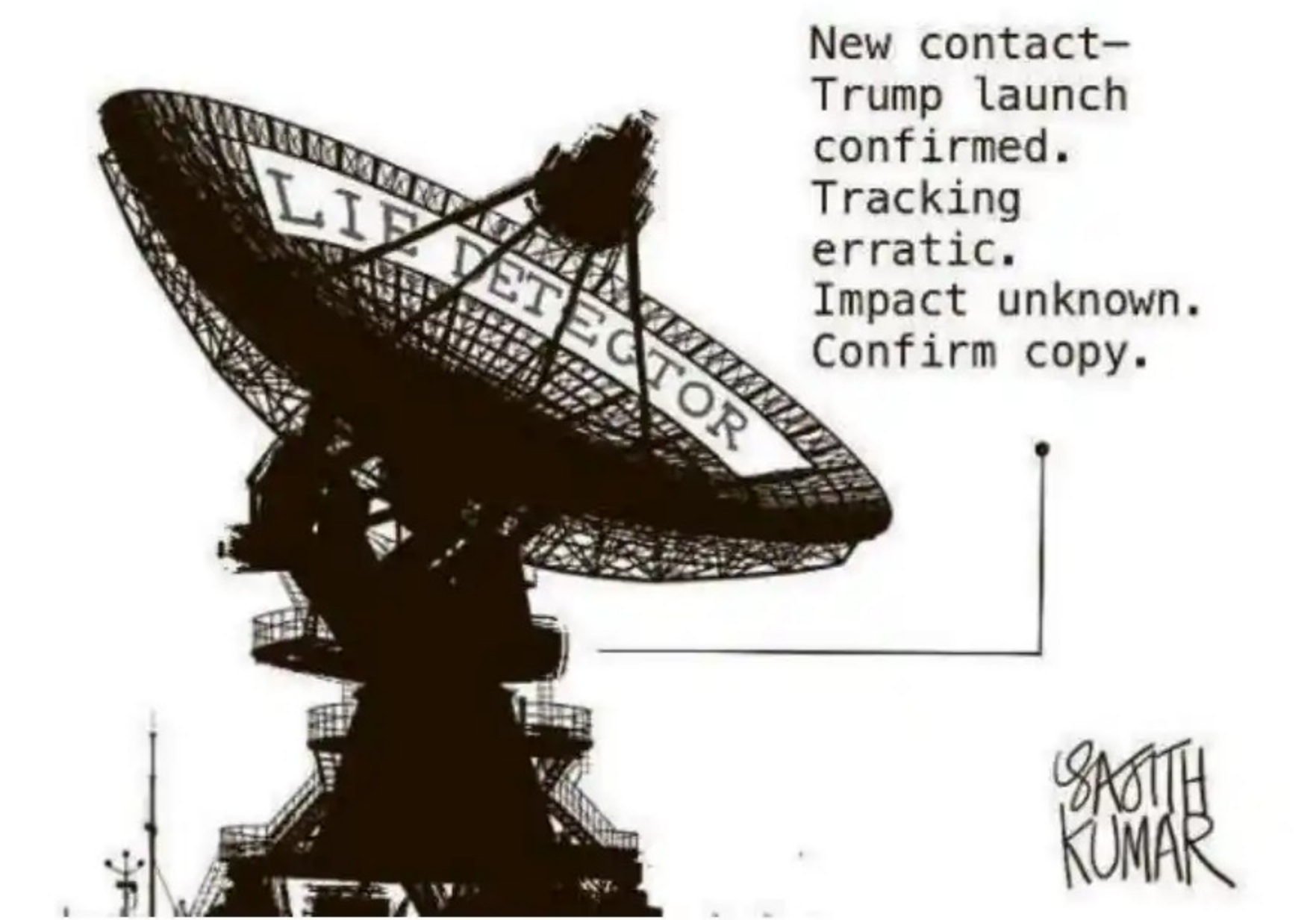
You don’t want the worst people in the world to have a nuclear weapon, that’s why the President is doing this.

JD Vance, US Vice President

It is forbidden to kill; therefore all murderers are punished unless they kill in large numbers and to the sound of trumpets.

Voltaire

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Revised GDP tests devolution fairness

The promise of performance-based allocation is credible, but the methods are not tuned to fiscal equity

RAJESHWARI U R

The recent revision of India’s GDP series by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI), adopting 2022-23 as the new base year, marks one of the most significant methodological upgrades in the country’s national accounts framework in over a decade. While such revisions intend to improve statistical accuracy and better reflect structural changes in the economy, their implications extend beyond measurement. In particular, they assume critical importance given the 16th Finance Commission’s decision to assign a 10% weight to states’ Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) in the tax devolution formula.

At first glance, including GSDP as a criterion represents a logical and progressive step. By incorporating economic contribution into the devolution formula, the Finance Commission acknowledges the role of states as engines of growth, production, and tax mobilisation. This introduces an element of performance-based allocation into what has been a predominantly redistributive framework. However, the criterion’s effectiveness depends on the reliability and comparability of the underlying GDP estimates – an issue complicated by MOSPI’s revised methodology.

The new GDP series introduces several substantive methodological changes. These include the expanded use of administrative data sources such as GST records, corporate filings (MCA-21), and PFMS data, along with integrating regular surveys like the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), to improve measurement of the household sector.

Adopting double deflation in key sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture, and integrating Supply and Use Tables (SUT) to reconcile production and expenditure estimates, aim to enhance the robustness and internal consistency of GDP estimates.

Importantly, the revised methodology seeks to better capture emerging and previously underrepresented areas of economic activity, including the digital economy. At a conceptual level, these changes bring India’s national accounts closer to international best practices. However, these improvements also introduce new challenges when GDP is used as a basis for fiscal transfers.

The increased reliance on administrative and formal-sector data, particularly GST and corporate filings, means that states with higher levels of formalisation and stronger compliance systems are likely to see a greater increase in measured GSDP. Conversely, states with significant informal economies, where economic activity is less

fully captured in such datasets, may not experience comparable gains in measured output, even with similar underlying economic conditions.

This creates a structural asymmetry in the measurement of economic activity across states. While the revised methodology improves overall accuracy, it may also re-rank states in terms of measured economic size and growth, not solely due to real economic changes but due to differences in data capture. In a system where GSDP carries explicit weight in tax devolution, such shifts can have direct fiscal consequences.

Even a modest change in relative GSDP shares can influence the allocation of thousands of crores of rupees in central tax revenues. For states with limited fiscal space, these changes can affect expenditure priorities, development programmes, and long-term planning. The issue is, therefore, not merely statistical but fundamentally linked to fiscal equity.

Complementary indicators

The interaction between GSDP contribution and the traditional income distance criterion further complicates the framework. Income distance, which carries substantial weight, is designed to favour poorer states by allocating higher transfers to those with lower per capita income. The introduction of GSDP as a performance-based parameter creates a counterbalancing force that rewards larger or more productive economies. This dual structure can generate tensions, particularly if methodological changes amplify measured performance without corresponding changes in real economic capacity.

From a policy perspective, this raises a critical question: can GDP, in its revised form, serve as a stable and equitable basis for fiscal transfers? The answer lies not in rejecting GDP, but in recognising its evolving nature and incorporating safeguards. The 16th Finance Commission has addressed short-term volatility by using multi-year averages of per capita GSDP in computing income distance. However, given recent methodological changes, greater transparency in state-level adjustments remains essential to distinguish real performance from statistical effects. There is also merit in complementing GSDP with additional indicators of fiscal capacity, such as own tax revenue effort, sectoral composition, and fiscal sustainability metrics.

The inclusion of GSDP reflects an important evolution in India’s fiscal federalism, recognising economic dynamism alongside redistribution. Its effectiveness, however, depends on the robustness and consistent application of the measurement framework. Ensuring that devolution reflects real economic differences rather than artefacts of measurement will be essential to maintaining fairness and credibility.

(The writer is an associate professor at the Department of Economics, Christ University)

The missing link in Viksit Bharat 2047: Youth mental wellbeing

BRIGADIER NEERAJ SONI (RETD)

India’s demographic dividend—reflected in nearly 65% of its population being under 35 years—is widely celebrated as a major structural advantage for the country in the 21st century. In policy discourse, this youthful profile is seen as a foundation for achieving Viksit Bharat 2047. However, this optimism risks overlooking a critical constraint: the declining mental wellbeing of India’s youth. If unaddressed, this challenge may impede the conversion of demographic advantage into productive human capital for sustained national development.

Recent empirical evidence underscores the gravity of the concern. Sapient Labs’ *The Global Mind Health Report* (2025) ranks Indian young adults (18–34) 60th globally in mental wellbeing. This aligns with the National Mental Health Survey, which estimates that 7–10% of adolescents suffer from diagnosable mental disorders, while the treatment gap exceeds 70%. Together, these figures point to a structural

weakening of the cognitive and emotional foundations of India’s youth.

Drawing on responses from nearly 2.5 million participants across 85 countries, the Sapient Labs study attributes declining mental wellbeing to four factors: weakening family bonds, declining engagement with spirituality, early exposure to digital devices, and increased consumption of ultra-processed food. These reflect broader shifts in lifestyle, technology use, and social relationships. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines mental health as a state of wellbeing in which individuals realise their abilities, cope with normal stresses, work productively, and contribute to their communities.

An important insight from global studies is the distinction between happiness and mental wellbeing. Countries that rank high on the World Happiness Index, such as Finland, do not necessarily perform equally well in mental wellbeing across age groups. This divergence suggests that life satisfaction does not automatically translate into

the capacity to cope with complexity, uncertainty, and stress. The distinction is of particular significance.

India’s progress towards Viksit Bharat will depend fundamentally on the productivity, creativity, and resilience of its young workforce, which is expected to underpin economic growth until around 2055–2056. This strategic advantage hinges on healthy and happy youth workers, supported by a comprehensive policy framework. One possible approach is the BEST framework, comprising four interrelated dimensions: Bharatiya lifestyle, epistemic capital enhancement, socio-institutional support systems, and transformative technologies.

The first dimension highlights the relevance of Bharatiya lifestyle traditions, many of which historically functioned as mechanisms for maintaining psychological equilibrium. Practices such as Ayurvedic *dinacharya* regulated daily routines, emphasising disciplined patterns of sleep, diet, and physical activity. Traditions such as yoga, meditation, and mindfulness contributed

to overall balance. Equally significant were social institutions such as joint families and neighbourhood communities, which served as informal support systems. Their gradual erosion has weakened these social buffers. Revitalising such practices through value-based education, campus wellbeing programmes, and community engagement may help restore psychological balance.

The second dimension focuses on building epistemic capital through psychological attributes such as hope, optimism, resilience, and self-efficacy. These enable individuals to navigate uncertainty and sustain motivation. In knowledge-driven economies, these attributes function as productive assets influencing innovation and adaptability. Educational institutions and workplaces need to incorporate resilience training, emotional intelligence development, and wellbeing-oriented pedagogies.

The third dimension involves strengthening mental health infrastructure and socio-institutional support systems. India faces a significant shortage of trained men-

tal healthcare professionals. Expanding community mental health centres, school counselling programmes, and workplace wellbeing initiatives is essential. Policy responses must also address structural stressors affecting young people—academic pressure, employment uncertainty, urban stress, and social isolation—by locating mental wellbeing within broader developmental planning rather than confining it to the healthcare sector.

The fourth dimension concerns the strategic deployment of transformative technologies. Digital platforms such as Tele-MANAS offer significant potential to expand access to mental health services. Artificial intelligence can act as a multiplier in this effort. However, technological solutions must operate within robust regulatory frameworks that ensure ethical use, privacy protection, and professional accountability.

Although global health discourse formally incorporated mental wellbeing into the definition of health in 1948, Indian intellectual traditions had long recognised the

integrated nature of human wellbeing. The Panchakosha framework articulated in the Upanishadic tradition conceptualises human existence through five interconnected layers—*annamaya* (physical), *pranamaya* (vital), *manomaya* (emotional), *vijnanamaya* (cognitive), and *anandamaya* (blissful consciousness). This perspective resonates strongly with contemporary interdisciplinary approaches to wellbeing science.

Safeguarding India’s demographic dividend requires more than economic planning. It demands sustained attention to the mental resilience, cognitive vitality, and social wellbeing of the nation’s youth. If the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 is to be actualised in substantive terms, protecting the psychological wellbeing of India’s young citizens must be recognised as a strategic national priority. The future trajectory of India’s development will ultimately depend not only on the size of its population but also on the strength, stability, and creative capacities of the minds that constitute it.

(The writer is a professor at IIM Jammu)

European politicians risk angering their voters if they join America’s war. Yet they could also face domestic upheaval if they take no action to reopen shipping routes that Iran has blocked and ease an energy crisis

MARK LANDLER

President Donald Trump, in his latest broadside at Europe, castigated its leaders for refusing to help keep open the Strait of Hormuz. “They complain about the high oil prices they are forced to pay,” he said on social media last week, but they reject “a simple military manoeuvre that is the single reason for the high oil prices.”

However impulsive his outburst, it pointed up a deeper truth: Donald Trump has put Europe’s leaders into a kind of double bind.

Iran’s *de facto* closure of the strategic waterway has set off a full-blown energy crisis across the continent. With skyrocketing oil and gas prices angering voters throughout Europe, the pressure is mounting on its leaders to take more forceful actions to reopen the shipping lanes.

Yet at the same time, Europe’s political winds are blowing ever more fiercely against the war, raising the stakes for leaders to take part. The military campaign is faulted by many Europeans, especially on the left, who say it is gratuitous, illegal and now is threatening Europe’s fragile growth. The leaders also remain haunted by the Iraq War, which Britain supported, to its lasting regret.

“We are divided as usual,” said Gérard Araud, a former French ambassador to Israel and the United States. “Europeans are showing their weakness on several levels. We are in a state of total shock about what is happening.”

Already, the war is tilting politics. In Italy, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni lost a referendum to overhaul the judicial system that leaves her politically damaged. The perception that she is close to Trump, who is deeply unpopular in Italy, did not help, especially when he did not bother to call her before the war.

In France, a far-left party opposed to Mideast intervention, France Unbowed, scored gains in mayoral elections last week. That came despite the party getting caught up in controversies, including the arrest of two party aides after the killing of a right-wing activist. Analysts said the party benefited from the votes of Muslims who are angry about the war.

Still, for all the political hazards, there are compelling reasons for Europe to ensure the Strait of Hormuz is not blocked for a prolonged period. In Germany, gasoline has topped 2 euros per litre, the equivalent of \$9.48 per gallon. That has forced Germany and other countries into costly tax cuts and price caps to cushion the shock.

“The Europeans have every interest in opening the strait to tanker and other trade, and in showing the smaller Gulf states that they are reliable allies,” said Peter Westmacott, a former British ambassador to France and the United States. “So, once satisfied that they are acting defensively rather offensively, those who can are looking for ways to help.”

For all Trump’s pressure on Europe, he has not made it easy for its leaders to support him. The United States did not consult allies on the joint US-Israeli operation or,



In Germany, gasoline has topped 2 euros per litre, the equivalent of \$9.48 per gallon. Iran’s *de facto* closure of the strategic waterway has set off a full-blown energy crisis across the continent. NYT

Trump has put Europe’s leaders in a double bind over Iran

in most cases, even give them a heads-up. The lack of collaboration came after a fraught period in which Trump escalated his threats of a takeover of Greenland and zigzagged in his support for Ukraine.

Trump has since been insulting to European leaders, particularly Prime Minister Keir Starmer of Britain, who worked assiduously to cultivate him. Starmer is “no Winston Churchill,” he said, before circulating a mocking British TV sketch of the prime minister quaking before a phone call with the president.

R Nicholas Burns, who served as US ambassador to NATO during the Iraq War, said “the scurrilous comments that Trump made about the British prime minister” were the latest in a series of hostile gestures that would make it politically untenable for European leaders to take part in offensive military operations.

“All of that has contributed to the political problems that European countries have, and they’re all democracies,” Burns said.

Even when he appealed to the Europeans to step up, Trump managed to disparage them. The United States, he said, did not actually need their military assets. Diplomats and military officials say that laid bare his real motive: to force Europe to assume the political risk of joining the military campaign.

While analysts note that Europe could

contribute to a military operation in the strait—deploying minesweepers, for example, or other warships to escort tankers—they say that Europe’s military assets are secondary to the value of having its political buy-in for the broader campaign.

“There are realities where it would be convenient to have more ships,” said Michel Yakovlev, a retired French general and former NATO planner. “But that’s not the Trump line. If Trump were open to saying, ‘Quite frankly, given the magnitude of the problem, we’d like to have more,’ then the calculation could be different.”

But since Trump dismissed the value of Europe’s military contribution, Yakovlev said, “that means it’s political.”

He said European leaders were right not to give Trump political cover because he has yet to clarify his strategic objectives or lay out an exit ramp for the war. On Monday, the president said “very good” talks were underway to end hostilities, a contention quickly disputed by Iranian officials.

To put together a coalition for the strait, Yakovlev said, Trump would need to hammer out an agreement with members on the scope of the operation, what each would contribute, the chain of command and rules of engagement. Such a process would take at least two months, he said.

Last week, leaders from Europe, joined

by several from Asia and the Persian Gulf, dropped their resistance to taking part in such an operation. But their statement was hardly full-throated: “We express our readiness to contribute to appropriate efforts to ensure safe passage through the strait,” it said.

President Emmanuel Macron of France is working behind the scenes to obtain the imprimatur of the United Nations for a post-conflict operation to keep the strait open. European Union officials have raised the idea of expanding the mandate of other naval protection missions in the region.

Given Europe’s history of negotiating with Iran on its nuclear programme, said Araud, it could play a more meaningful role diplomatically in helping wind down the conflict.

But he said Europe was hamstrung by three interlocking factors: Trump’s distrust of Europe, especially after its refusal to support the war; Europe’s fears that antagonizing the president could lead him to punish Ukraine; and Iran’s suspicion of Europe, given its reluctance to confront him more openly.

“We could play the role of go-between, but Trump would rather have the Pakistanis,” Araud said, adding that “the Iranians don’t trust us either; they think we are in the pocket of the Americans.”

The New York Times

Renaming without reform serves none

K V CHANDRAMOULI

The Karnataka government’s recent decision to rename Bengaluru’s Victoria Hospital after socialist leader Shantaveri Gopala Gowda has reignited debate over the growing trend of renaming public institutions in India. Reports indicate that the proposal took doctors and patients by surprise, as the 125-year-old hospital remains one of the state’s most prominent public healthcare institutions.

Established on December 8, 1900, during the tenure of George Curzon and supported by Maharani Kempananjammanni, the hospital was built to mark Queen Victoria’s Diamond Jubilee and strengthen public health after severe plague outbreaks. Over time, it has become synonymous with accessible healthcare, serving as a major tertiary referral centre for patients across rural and urban areas. The surprise over the proposal reflects a broader concern about limited public consultation in decisions affecting long-standing institutions. Many note that, irrespective of official changes, the hospital will likely continue to be known by its original name—highlighting how public memory often outlasts administrative decisions.

The proposal also comes amid other naming debates in Karnataka. The state earlier approved renaming Ramanagara district as Bengaluru South, while discussions continue on referring to Tumakuru as Bengaluru North. Critics argue such changes may gradually dilute distinct regional identities by subsuming them under Bengaluru’s expanding metropolitan identity, driven more by administrative convenience or political messaging than public demand.

This trend extends beyond Karnataka. The Union Cabinet’s approval to rename Kerala as Keralam, following Odisha’s shift from “Orissa”, reflects attempts to align names with linguistic identity—though such decisions often intersect with political considerations, including upcoming elections. Meanwhile, the proposal to rename West Bengal as “Bangla”, repeatedly raised by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, remains pending. These examples show how language, identity and politics often converge in naming decisions.

India is no stranger to renaming. Several cities have adopted names reflecting local linguistic and cultural identities. Cities such as Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Bengaluru replaced their colonial-era names. Similar examples include Gurugram

and Prayagraj. In many cases, the objective was to restore indigenous identity or correct colonial spellings.

Even within Karnataka, some changes arose from linguistic or social considerations. Madhugiri, known for its massive monolithic hill and fort, was earlier recorded as Maddagiri in colonial documents. As “Madda” has an awkward vulgar connotation in Telugu slang, the name was later refined. Historical accounts suggest that when the noted Kannada writer and civil servant Masti Venkatesha Iyengar served as assistant commissioner in the region in 1927, he standardised the name as Madhugiri, lending it a more dignified form. Such examples show that renaming decisions can stem from social sensitivity rather than political symbolism.

Over time, however, the practice has expanded. Roads, institutions, districts and universities are increasingly renamed to honour political leaders or reshape historical narratives. In the national capital, for instance, Race Course Road became Lok Kalyan Marg, and Aurangzeb Road was renamed Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Road. Although these changes generated debate, many residents still use earlier names out of habit.

Similar debates have surfaced elsewhere. In Goa, for instance, there have been demands to rename Vasco da Gama as Mormugao, arguing that the Portuguese-era name does not reflect local identity or the legacy of Goa’s freedom movement. These debates show how place names are often intertwined with history, identity, and political memory.

Yet a key question persists: does changing a name alter outcomes? Experience suggests it rarely does. Institutions typically continue to function much as before, regardless of their labels. For example, the State Bank of India renamed its training centres—from Staff Training Centre to State Bank Learning Centre and later to State Bank Institute of Learning and Development—while their core functions and systems remained largely unchanged.

This gap between symbolism and substance is captured in wry administrative humour: potholes may be called “speed regulators”, delays “work in progress”, deficits “negative surplus”, and corruption “facilitation fees”. The point is simple: names may shape perception but rarely change reality without real reforms in policy, execution, and accountability.

(The writer is a retired deputy director of boilers)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: MARCH 1976

Centre has no plan to delete right to property

New Delhi, March 26
The government at present has no intention to delete the right to property from the fundamental rights chapter of the Constitution, Deputy Home Minister F. H. Mohsin told the Lok Sabha today. Intervening in the debate on a Bill moved by Mr. Bhogendra Jha (CPI) seeking to amend the Constitution, Mr. Mohsin said no constitutional impediments stood in the way of the implementation of progressive legislation. He said a national debate on constitutional reforms was now going on in the light of which it was better not to press the Bill.

25 YEARS AGO: MARCH 2001

Budget includes fresh tax proposals, new welfare schemes

Bangalore, March 26
Chief Minister S.M. Krishna today presented a pragmatic and self-regulating budget for 2001-2002 that had the promised focus on the farming and rural sector. He announced a State Agricultural Prices Commission to offset the inadequacy of the national commission, five new welfare schemes including a “best teacher award”, and across-the-board taxation proposals combining new levies. The Chief Minister, in his second consecutive budget as Finance Minister, known for his IT-savvy dynamism, said the philosophy of his government was “Think Global, Act Local”.

OASIS | PRIYA ANAND

Nature has healing for those who trust its process

Wounds and bruises due to a fall had my limbs paused from functioning normally. After applying homemade pastes and herbal remedies for several days, I have come to realise that I must allow natural healing to take its own course. Nature has its own pace of doing things, and one must have faith in it.

Thirteenth-century Sufi poet Rumi, in his poem *Unfolding the Rose*, beautifully explains how God creates and times the minutest of the things so perfectly:

“The secret of unfolding the flowers/ Is not known to such as I/ God opens this flower so sweetly/ When in my hands they fade and die.”

Just as the beauty and the timing of God’s creations cannot be matched, everything destined will arrive at its right time.

At the time of his son’s birth, Ravana wanted all nine planets to align themselves in the eleventh house to bless his son with immense power and immortality. Ravana, a learned man with great astrological power and knowledge, was also known for his temper.

While all other planets complied, fearing the consequence, Shani alone did not comply. When Meghnad was born with a thundering sound, hence

named so, he was blessed with many supernatural powers and had a choice of using many powerful celestial weapons during the battle of Lanka;

yet, he breathed his last soon at the hands of Lakshmana.

The last few lines of the poem remind us that we mustn’t rush through the pages of our lives. Let them unfold at their right time.

“The pathway that lies before me, only my Heavenly Father knows. I’ll trust him to unfold the moments just as he unfolds the rose.”

Nature has beauty bestowed in all its elements. In Lao Tzu’s words, ‘Na-

ture does not hurry, yet everything is accomplished.’ While flowering, even a wild, ugly bush turns beautiful with its thorns and woody stems. Flowers growing in the wild or in dirt also bear their unique smell and beauty. Nature teaches patience, and with this conviction, my wounds have healed beautifully without much everyday effort. As Shakespeare once said, “The earth has music for those who listen”... Nature has healing for those who trust its process.

“There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrain of nature... the assurance that dawn comes after night and spring after the winter,” writes Rachel Carson.



WEST ASIA CRISIS: Centre advises people against panicking, says 8 lakh tonnes of LPG secured

No shortage, 60 days of fuel stocks available: Govt

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Amid reports of panic buying and long queues at petrol pumps and LPG distributors, the Centre on Thursday claimed that India has about 60 days of oil stock cover and has secured one full month of LPG supply.

Insisting that there is no shortage of petrol, diesel, or LPG, the government said some people spread misleading information to create panic among the public.

Misleading posts

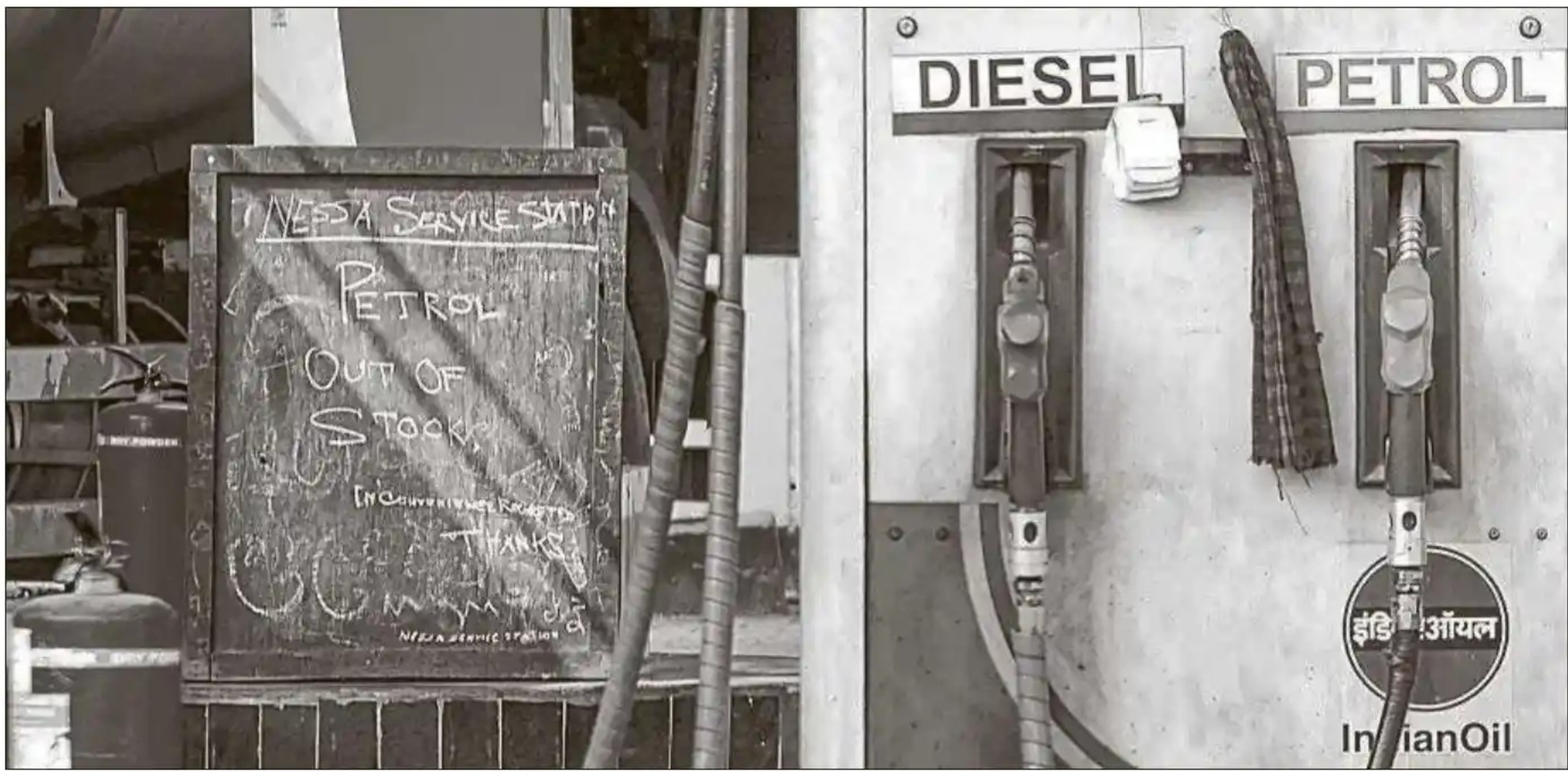
It warned that misleading social media posts and fabricated claims of shortages would invite strict action.

All retail fuel outlets across the country, more than one lakh pumps, are adequately stocked and functioning without interruption. No rationing of petrol or diesel has been imposed anywhere.

With some petrol pumps, especially in smaller towns, finding difficulty in lifting fuel after oil companies put them on cash-and-carry, the ministry said steps have been taken to increase credit to petrol pumps to over three days from earlier one day to ensure that there is no shortage of petrol and diesel at any pump due to working capital issues of pump owners.

While the West Asia conflict has disrupted the supply of half of the crude oil, the country has secured enough crude supplies from elsewhere for the next 60 days. Also, fuel tanks are at optimum levels and can help cover two months of requirements.

On LPG, the ministry said 8,00,000 tonnes of LPG cargoes have been secured, and one full month of supply is firmly arranged. Domestic refinery LPG production has been ramped up by 40%, reaching 50,000 tonnes per day, more than 60% of India's daily requirement of around 80,000 tonnes.



A notice at a petrol pump reads, "Petrol out of stock", amid rumours of fuel shortage in the wake of the West Asian conflict, in Guwahati, on Thursday. PTI

Modi to interact with CMs

Aimed at reviewing the states' preparedness and plans in the wake of the West Asia conflict, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday will interact with the chief ministers of all states, barring those that are going to polls, reports DHNS.

The initiative is aimed at ensuring synergy of efforts in the spirit of "Team India", the sources said.

This is the first time that the PM will hold a meeting with the CMs on the West Asia conflict, which started on February 28.

The chief ministers of election-bound states will not be part of this meeting due to the Model Code of Conduct. The Cabinet Secretariat will hold a separate meeting with the chief secretaries of poll-bound states.

This has reduced the net daily import requirement to just 30,000 tonnes.

Oil companies are delivering over 50 lakh cylinders daily. Panic buying had temporarily pushed demand to 89 lakh cylinders per day, but it has since returned to normal levels, the statement said.

On natural gas, India produces 92 million standard cubic meters per day (mmscmd) domestically out of a total requirement of 191 mmscmd, making it far less import-dependent than on LPG. The ministry reiterated that India is completely secure for the next several months and urged citizens to ignore unfounded claims about depleted reserves.

STATEMENT BY GOVERNMENT

“Nearly two months of steady supply is available for every Indian citizen regardless of what happens globally. Next 2 months of crude procurement has also been secured. India is completely secure for the next many months and the quantity in strategic cavern storage becomes secondary in such a supply situation. Any representation that India's reserves are depleted or insufficient should be dismissed with the disdain it deserves.”

Nayara Energy hikes petrol price by Rs 5 per litre, diesel by Rs 3

NEW DELHI, PTI: Nayara Energy, India's largest private fuel retailer, on Thursday raised petrol prices by Rs 5 per litre and diesel by Rs 3 a litre, passing on part of the recent surge in global oil prices following the war in the Middle East, sources said.

Fuel marketing companies in India have been under strain as retail petrol and diesel prices remained frozen despite a nearly 50% surge in international oil prices since February 28, when the United States and Israel launched military strikes against Iran.

Nayara Energy, which operates 6,967 of India's 102,075 petrol pumps, has decided to pass on part of the increase in input costs to consumers.

Without giving out the quantum of increase in prices, the company, in a statement, said the ongoing disruption in crude oil supplies has created unprecedented challenges in the industry.

India's fertiliser supply under strain

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The ongoing conflict in West Asia has disrupted key shipping routes and global supply chains, putting India's fertiliser supplies under severe pressure.

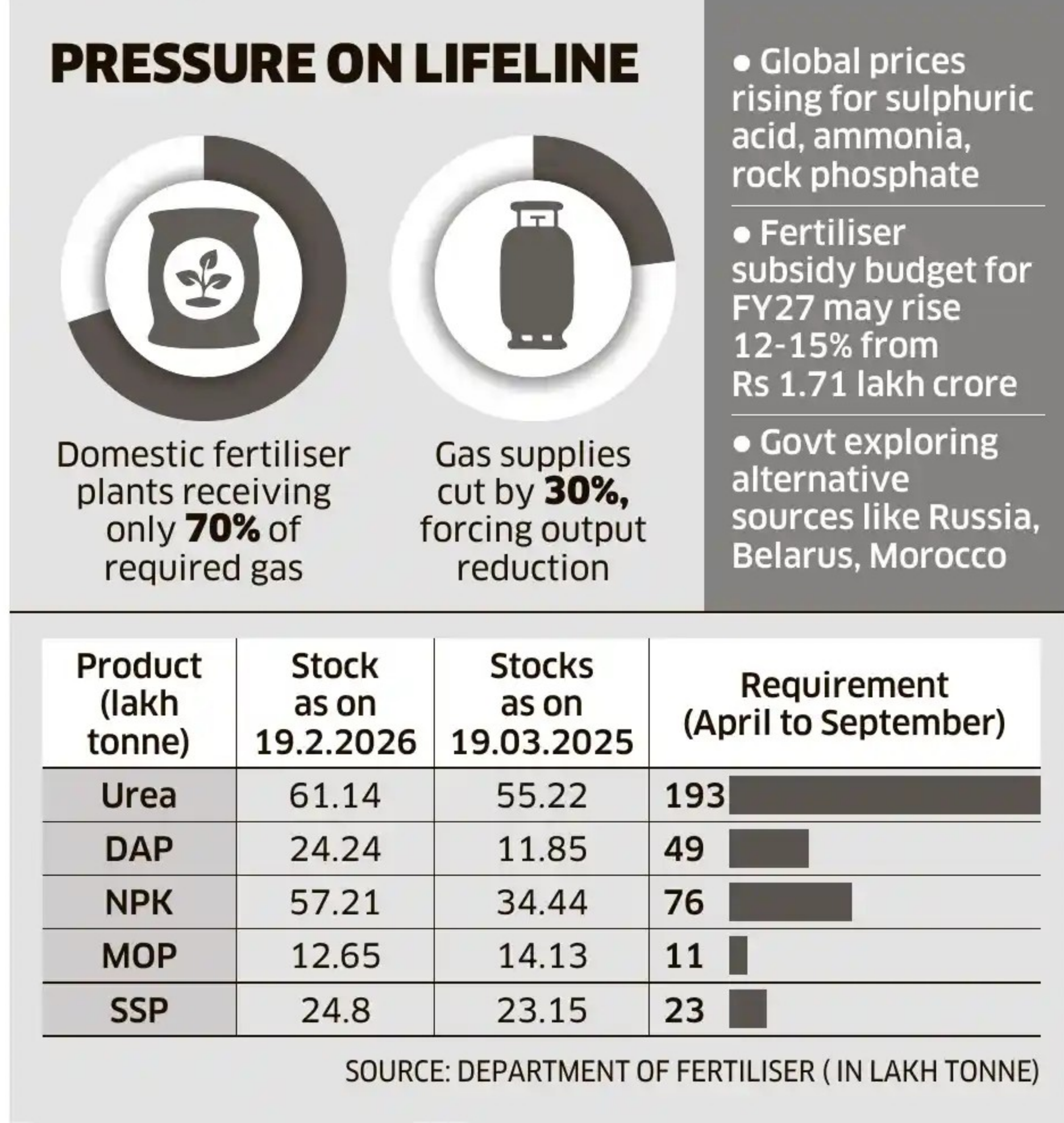
As the world's second-largest fertiliser consumer after China, India's heavy dependence on the Gulf region for both raw materials and finished fertiliser products has exposed the country's vulnerability in farm inputs.

The blockade of the Strait of Hormuz — a narrow shipping lane between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman — has restricted shipping, while reduced LNG production in the region has hit domestic fertiliser plants hard.

India imports nearly 85% of its LNG from the Gulf, mainly Qatar. The fertiliser sector accounts for about 30% of the country's total LNG consumption. With Qatar shutting down LNG plants due to the war, domestic fertiliser units are receiving only 70% of their required gas, forcing them to cut production.

Although current stocks are sufficient, fertiliser demand peaks during the kharif season (June-September). With the monsoon just two months away, any prolongation of the conflict could create serious shortages.

“At present, there may not be an immediate problem due to adequate inventory. However, gas supplies to factories have been cut by 25%, forcing plants to lower production. If the conflict continues into April, production constraints could emerge,” said Vivek Jain, Director, India Ratings and Research. India also imports finished



fertilisers like urea and DAP from Saudi Arabia, Oman and Qatar. To bridge the gap, the government is exploring alternative sources such as Russia, Belarus and Morocco.

“The government has set up a monitoring group and is committed to meeting kharif demand. The country currently has higher stocks than last year. Self-reliance on fertilisers remains our long-term goal,” said Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Rising global prices of raw materials such as sulphuric acid, ammonia and rock phosphate have further squeezed domestic manufacturers' margins.

Even the Fertiliser Association of India (FAI) has urged the government to provide financial relief to urea producers hit by gas supply disruptions, warning that production shortfalls and a separate packaging

materials crunch could disrupt fertiliser supplies ahead of the crucial kharif season.

“If the war drags on, competition for spot purchases of gas and fertilisers will intensify, pushing prices higher,” Jain added.

Anand Kulkarni, Director, Crisil Ratings, said the domestic production of urea and complex fertilisers could decline by 10-15% if disruptions in LNG and ammonia supplies continue.

The rise in raw material and imported fertiliser prices is likely to increase working capital requirements for companies and push up the government's subsidy bill by Rs 20,000-25,000 crore, Crisil Ratings said.

“Factoring in the elevated input costs and higher imported fertiliser prices for even one quarter, the overall subsidy budget is likely to increase by 12-15% from the initial estimate of Rs 1.71 lakh crore for fiscal 2027,” said Nitin Bansal, Associate Director, Crisil Ratings.

29 new ITBP outposts set up along China border: MHA

NEW DELHI, PTI: The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has strengthened its presence with 29 new border outposts along the India-China border since 2020 as part of a broader security buildup along the 3,488 km border, according to a Ministry of Home Affairs report.

The new border outposts (BOPs) span altitudes ranging from 9,000 feet to 18,750 feet across the Western, Middle, and Eastern sectors along the Himalayas, from the Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal Pradesh, the report for 2024-25, released on Wednesday, said, adding the ITBP is manning a total of 209 BOPs.

There were 180 ITBP-managed BOPs, according to the ministry's earlier report for 2020-21. The increase in the number of BOPs comes in the wake of the 2020 clash between Indian and Chinese troops in the Galwan Valley.

All-party meet after April 29 will delay rollout of women's quota, govt tells Cong

Grand old party questions govt's hurry to further amend law

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The government on Thursday conveyed to the Congress that holding an all-party meeting after April 29 “will delay” the rollout of the 33% women's quota in legislatures and asked it to “come on board” at the earliest, but the latter did not find merit in it, saying there is sufficient time to implement it from the 2029 Lok Sabha polls.

Sources said Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju reached out to Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge once again, asking for a meeting to discuss the issue of bringing a Bill to amend the Constitution



BJP MPs Kangana Ranaut and Shobhanaben Baraiya during the Budget Session of Parliament. PTI FILE PHOTO

to allow early implementation of the women's quota in Parliament and state Assemblies.

However, Kharge, who, along with other Opposition leaders, had earlier demanded an all-party meeting after April 29 following the conclusion of assembly elections, responded that he simply fails to understand why the government is “such a great hurry” to further amend the law 30 months after it was initially passed without agreeing to their demand for

early rollout.

“We are extremely busy with the election campaign. That is the reason why we had suggested that the meeting be held after the election campaigning is over. This will, in no way, affect the implementation of the amended Nari Shakti Vandana Adhiniyam, 2023 from the 2029 Lok Sabha election onwards,” Kharge said in his reply, reiterating the demand for an all-party meeting.

In his letter, Rijiju recalled

his earlier meetings with Kharge as well as the letters he wrote, but said the demand for an all-party meeting only after April 29 will “delay the implementation” of the 33% quota. He said the process involves “several time-bound and intricate steps, including the delimitation process and other necessary procedural and administrative measures”.

These processes are “inherently time-consuming and any delay at this stage may adversely impact” the feasibility of implementing the provisions of the Act in time for the 2029 elections, sources said, quoting from the letter. Rijiju said the government has already undertaken consultations with various parties and, given Kharge's position as the leader of the “principal opposition party”, his cooperation and participation are crucial.

He urged Kharge to extend his support and “come on board in this collective endeavour, so that the commitment made to the women of our nation is fulfilled”, sources said.

Akhilesh's OBC card: Phoolan Devi's sister gets key SP post

SANJAY PANDEY
LUCKNOW, DHNS

Apparently eyeing the support of the electorally influential “Nishad” (boatman) community, Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav has appointed “bandit queen”-turned-politician and former MP Phoolan Devi's sister Rukmani Devi as his party's Women's Wing chief in the state ahead of the next year's Uttar Pradesh Assembly polls.

Rukmani Devi, who hails from the Nishad community, is the elder sister of Phoolan Devi, who was shot dead outside her residence in Delhi in 2001.

Rukmani was earlier with the Manav Samaj Party, and joined the SP in 2019. She was considered close to Akhilesh, and has been active in the Bundelkhand region.

Her appointment was apparently aimed at denting the BJP's OBC vote bank, especially the electorally influential Nishad community, which has a sizeable presence in around 80 Assembly constituencies in the state.

The Nishads — also known as “Mallah” (boatmen and fishermen) — form around 4% of UP's total electorate, and are in a position to decide the outcome on several seats in the eastern UP districts of Mirzapur, Varanasi, Gorakhpur, Ballia, Mau, Bhadohi, and Prayagraj, besides others.

The Samajwadi Party leaders here said her appointment would also strengthen the party in the Bundelkhand region, where the party fared poorly in the 2022 Assembly elections.

“Rukmani Devi is from the Jalaun district in Bundelkhand, and has been socially and politically active there for quite some time... She has taken up issues concerning women and the OBCs... Her appointment is certain to expand our support base in the region,” a senior SP leader told *DH* here.

The Nishad Party, which is an alliance partner in the BJP government and claims to be the community's sole representative, however, dismissed assertions that Rukmani Devi would be able to get the community's support.

Panel seeks tougher rules for women's safety online

AMRITA MADHUKALYA
NEW DELHI, DHNS

A Parliamentary panel has called for social media networks to take greater responsibility to reduce crimes against women. It has also asked for the grading of online crimes, and recommended that the Central government come up with a standard protocol for dealing with such cases.

The Committee on the Empowerment of Women, chaired by D Purandeswari, has recommended that intermediaries strictly adhere to the prescribed timelines.

“...Digital platforms, particularly social media, messaging, and hosting services, must be held to higher accountability standards. The committee recommends fast-track data-sharing frameworks, stricter and shorter compli-

DIGITAL NORMS

- Parl panel urges Central govt to formulate a standard protocol to deal with online crimes
- Govt urged to introduce age-appropriate regulations and calibrated usage limits on social media platforms
- Panel recommends designing a national cyber-safety awareness programme

ance timelines, mandatory deployment of AI-driven detection tools, and transparent reporting of child safety and women's safety measures,” it has noted in its report.

The panel has also urged the ministry to introduce age-appropriate regulations and cal-

ibrated usage limits on social media platforms to safeguard children and adolescents from the adverse psychological impacts of social media usage.

It noted that new-generation technologies such as Generative AI, IoT devices, machine-learning, and 5G have created sophisticated avenues for exploitation.

“Deepfake pornography, synthetic explicit content, and AI-enabled impersonation have greatly complicated detection, takedown, and forensic-tracking. Offenders increasingly leverage encrypted platforms, VPNs, cloud servers, spoofed identities, virtual numbers, and dark-web infrastructure, making attribution and investigation more challenging,” said the panel, adding that a 233% increase in cybercrimes against women between 2017 and

2022 pointed to the trend as well as increased awareness.

The panel recommended that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) formulate a victim-centric and uniform standard operating procedure that focuses on accessibility, confidentiality, and immediate support for women and children, which should be shared with states.

It also asked for the rapid establishment of additional regional forensic units, mobile cyber forensic vans, and dedicated cyber forensic consultants in every state.

The panel recommended that both the MHA and Ministry of IT jointly design a national cyber-safety awareness programme with dedicated outreach through schools, colleges, Panchayati Raj Institutions, Anganwadis and ASHA networks, among others.

SLOW DEATH

The Guj flyover that refuses to go

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

A flyover in Ahmedabad, declared unsafe just five years after its inauguration due to substandard construction and slated for demolition, is now facing fresh problems. Locals have voiced frustration, saying the “never-ending demolition process” has made life unbearable, with severe traffic congestion and dust plumes choking the area.

In 2022, barely five years after its completion, the Hatkeshwar flyover was closed owing to poor quality. Built at a cost of nearly Rs 42 crore, attempts to revive it for public use failed, and by 2024-25, it was declared hazardous.

The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) decided last year to demolish the flyover at a cost of Rs 3.9 crore. Authorities announced that the expenses would be recovered from the construction firm, Ajay Engineering Infrastructure Private Limited, which had built it.

Demolition work began in August and

was expected to be completed within three months. Sources said the deadline was extended to December, yet the work is still underway. An AMC official said that only two slabs remain and the process should be finished within a month.

The prolonged delay has angered locals, who shut down the market.

“We are facing numerous problems. First, the horrible traffic has been affecting our daily lives. Second, the demolition work is spreading massive amounts of dust across the area. Many people have fallen ill over the past six months,” said Hitesh Chaudhary, who runs a provisional store near the flyover.

Another shopkeeper, Anand, said business has suffered greatly since the demolition began. “The dust plumes are making people sick. It's especially affecting children and senior citizens,” he said. The traders warned that if the situation continued, they would escalate their protest.

The stir was also triggered after a woman and an elderly man were hurt when sandbags fell on them during the demolition.

Pune land scam: Panel indicts Parth Pawar's cousin

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

A government-appointed committee that probed the sensational Mahar Watan land case in Pune held that the notarised power of attorney (PoA) executed in favour of NCP MP Parth Pawar for government land was illegal and incorrect, but did not fix any responsibility. However, it indicted his cousin Digvijay Patil.

Parth, who was recently elected to the Rajya Sabha, is the elder son of the late Ajit Pawar and Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP president Sunetra Pawar.

Digvijay Patil is the son of the late Amarsinh Patil, the Sarpanch of Ter village in the Dharashiv district, and the brother of Sunetra Pawar.

After the land scam surfaced last year, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis appointed a committee headed by Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Vikas Kharge to probe it.

Around 40 acres of Mahar Watan land — located in Mundhwa off the prime Koregaon Park area — belonging to the government was sold for Rs 300 crore to Amadea Enterprises LLP, in which Parth Pawar and Digvijay Patil are partners. The stamp duty on it was waived.

The land's commercial value was reportedly as high as Rs 1,800 crore.

The “Watan” category land, reserved for the Mahar community, is protected under the Bombay Inferior Village Watans Abolition Act, 1958, and cannot be sold.

HC allows Centre to be made party in Rahul citizenship case

LUCKNOW, PTI: The Allahabad High Court on Thursday allowed the Centre to be made a party in a case related to the citizenship of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and asked it to submit relevant records on April 6.

The order was passed by Justice Subhash Vidyarthi of the Lucknow bench of the HC while hearing a petition filed by S Vignesh Shishir.

The court permitted the impleadment of the Centre as an opposite party and directed it to produce records related to the citizenship dispute in the next hearing.

During the previous hearing, the Centre had requested that the matter not be heard in open court, citing the confidential nature of documents received from the Home Ministry. The court had then conducted the proceedings in a chamber.

The petitioner has challenged a January 2026 order of a special MP/MLA court, which rejected his plea seeking an FIR against Gandhi.

MP: 10 dead, over 31 injured in bus-pick up vehicle collision

CHHINDWARA, PTI: Ten persons were killed and 31 injured, including three to four critically, in a head-on collision between a bus returning from a public function attended by the chief minister and a pick-up vehicle in Madhya Pradesh's Chhindwara on Thursday evening, officials said.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav expressed grief over the incident and announced compensation of Rs 4 lakh each for the kin of the deceased and Rs 1 lakh for those injured. Treatment of all injured persons would be provided free of cost, the CM announced.

The incident took place near Simaria on Nagpur road, some 25 kilometres from district headquarters, Superintendent of Police Ajay Pandey said.

“Six men, three women and a child were killed in the accident,” he added.

The bus was carrying more than 40 passengers at the time of the accident.



Govt of Karnataka
Government General Hospital Hospet

No/ghh/Tender/834/2024-25

Date:23.03.2025

Publication of e-tender

Tender are invited through e-procurement in Two cover type for the recruitment of 10 Group “D” and 10 Non-Clinical vacancies Total 20 post in Govt. Genral Hospital, Hospet for the year 2026-27. Interested and eligible tenderers are requested to submit tender through e-procurement platform within the stipulated time.

e-Tender No: **GHH/TENDER/834 /2025-26**. E-Procurement Tender No: **DHFWs/2025-26/SE2085**. Commencement of downloading of e-Tender forms from website: **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **Date: 24-03-2026 to 07-04-2026 evening @ 04.30 p.m.** Last Date for seeking clarification if any: **Date:06-04-2026 up to 11:00 am.** Last date for uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform: **Date:07-04-2026 evening @ 04.30 P.M.** Date, Time & Venue of Opening of Tenders: **Date:09-04-2026 @ 11.30 a.m in the office of the Surgeon, Govt. General Hospital, Hospet through e-procurement platform. EMD: Rs.1,20,000/-.** ANNUAL TENDER AMOUNT : **Rs.60,00,000/-**

Tenderers registered in eprocurement can get information about tender processing fee, EMD, tender form etc., through the Karnataka Government e-procurement portal website <http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> or contact the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Surgeon Govt. General Hospital Hospet.

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/KSMCA/RO No/619



BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Chickpete Division, BBMP No.194, T Mariyappa road, Opp to lalbagh south Gate, Siddapura Circle, Bangalore-560011. Email. eeckpbccc@gmail.com

NO.EE/CKP/E-PROC/17/2025-26

Date : 26.03.2026

Tender Notification

Bangalore Central City Corporation invites short term request for proposal for Parking Fee Collection at vacant land near National college K R road 3rd Call.

Following are the Events of Bid process:

Date of Commencement of Download of Document from 1. Karnataka public Procurement portal website <http://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in> : **From 27/03/2026**

2. Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in e-portal: **02/04/2026 2:30 PM**

Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting : **02/04/2026 at 3:00 PM** at the following venue: office of the Executive Engineer

3. Chickpete Division, BCCC, No.194, T Mariyappa road, Opp to lalbagh south Gate, Siddapura Circle, Bangalore-560011

4. Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in KPP portal : **06/04/2026 4:00 PM**

5. Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP : **07/04/2026 4:30 PM**

6. Place of Opening of Applications : Online at KPP portal

Address for Communication : Office of the Executive Engineer

7. Chickpete Division, BCCC, No.194, T Mariyappa road, Opp to lalbagh south Gate, Siddapura Circle, Bangalore-560011

1. Tender documents may be downloaded from the website (<http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>)

2. Other details can be seen in the tender documents.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Chikkapet Division



KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No: CEE/Tr(O)/ZM/SEE(O)/EE(Civil)/EOD-1/25-26/10906

Date: 26.03.2026

Tender Notification (Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites tender for the following works.

(1) **Tender No:** KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3208/CALL-2 for Reconstruction of Damaged compound wall at 220/66 KV R/s at **Kadakola** in Mysuru District. **Reserved for SC Category.**

(2) **Tender No:** KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3202/ CALL-2 for Providing Jelly spreading and Deck slab at **Nanjandud** 66/11 KV Station Yard in Mysuru District.

(3) **Tender No:** KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT2981/ Call-2 for Construction of New control room building and other allied works at 66/11 KV sub-station **Hunasuru**, Mysuru District- **Category: Others.**

(4) **Tender No:** KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT3206 for Construction of Damaged retaining wall and other allied works at 66/11kV **Gargeshwari** sub-station T. Narasipura Taluk, Mysuru District- **Category: Others.**

The tender for the above work is invited through electronic mode. The interested bidders can obtain the application in electronic mode by paying the tender fee. The detailed notification regarding above said enquiry in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: <https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> on hyper link “e-procurement” OR <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after 30.03.2026. More details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Elec.), Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasrana Bhavana, Ground Floor, F.T.S. compound, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570007.



KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites Bid on electronic mode for the various works in Tumakuru Transmission (Operations) Zone.

1. No:CEE/Tr(Op)/ZTKR/EE(Civil)/25-26/Cys-49

Date:24.03.2026

Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT2968 & KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT3364, 3365, 3366, 3392 & 3393**

2. No:CEE/Tr(Op)/ZTKR/EE(Civil)/25-26/Cys-51

Date:24.03.2026

Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT2917, 2964, 2965, 2966 & KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 3395, 3399, 3400 & 3401**

3. No:CEE/Tr(Op)/ZTKR/EE(Civil)/25-26/Cys-54

Date:24.03.2026

Bid Enquiry No: **KPTCL/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT3161, 3162, 3415 3417, 3437, 3433, 3434, 3435, 3436, 3422, 3155, 3426 & 3159**

The bids will be received through Electronic Mode Only. The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website <http://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in> with hyperlink “E Procurement KPTCL” or <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> on or after for **SI.No.1 & 2 Dt:01.04.2026 & for SI.No.3 Dt:02.04.2026 @ 12.00 hrs.** Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal. Any details required in this regard can also be had from the office of the undersigned during officer hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Electy..) Transmission (Operations) Zone, KPTCL, Prasrana Bhavana, 1st Floor, 66/11 KV Sub Station Premises, Tumakuru-572103.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
DAVANAGERE DIVISION, DAVANAGERE.

No.EE:PWD/Dvg/JE:IFT-53:2025-26/4021

Dated:- 26.03.2026

SHOR TERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Ref : This office tender notification No. IFT-53/2025-26 dated : 26.03.2026.

The works under Head of Account 3054-03-337-0-05-200 SH Maintenance 1 Works, Rs. 37.25 lakhs (W.I.33974-CALL-2) & 3054-04-337-1-10-200 MDR Maintenance 2 Works Rs. 110.90 lakhs (W.I.33959-CALL-2) and Rs. 200.00 lakhs (35111) pertaining to Davanagere, Harihara, Channagiri, Honnali and Jagalur sub divisions under the Jurisdiction of PWD, Davanagere division, has been called for the tenders from registered Contractors in KPWD for the above works through KPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Tender dates are as mentioned below:

Details of dates	W.I 35111	W.I.33974 & W.I.33959-CALL-2
Last Date & time for tender queries	Date 26.03.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.	Date 27.03.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.
Prebid meeting held: office of Executive enginner, PWD division, avanagere.	Date : 30.03.2026 Timing 11.30 A.M.	-
Last Date & time for receipt of tenders	Date : 02.04.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.	Date : 04.04.2026 Timing 4.00 P.M.
Date & time for open ing of Technical Bid :	Date : 04.04.2026 Timing 4.30 P.M.	Date : 06.04.2026 Timing 4.30 P.M.

Further details can be obtained from this office in office hours.

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/ 850/2025-26

Sd/- Executive Engineer
PWD, Davanagere.

Government of Karnataka

Karnataka Veterinary Animal and Fisheries Sciences
University, Nandinagar Bidar.

No.EO/KVAFSU/T.No.147/Works/2025-26

Date:25.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(e-Procurement portal only)

1) Works Details Carrying out civil/ electrical works at different campuses of KVAFSU, Bidar, 2) Tender Estimate Amount **Rs.2,43,26,566.00**, 3) Contractors eligibility details As mentioned e-portal, 4) Tender Amount Details **Rs.2,43,26,566.00**, 5) Cost of tender form and EMD details As mentioned e-portal, 6) Last date for submitting application **27.04.2026 up to 5.00 PM**, 7) Opening of Technical Bid (Two Cover Works) **29.04.2026 at 11.30 AM** 9) Opening of financial bid (Two Cover Works) **04.05.2026 at 11.30 AM**, 10) For more details contact office address, contract numbers Office of the Estate Officer KVAFSU, Nandinagar, Bidar 08482-245446, 11) Website details e-procurement portal-www.eproc. karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Estate Officer KVAFSU, Bidar.

DIPR/Bidar/371/KSMC&A/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ರಾಯಚೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ

E-mail:itstaff_ulb_raichura@yahoo.com

Website:-www.raichurcity.gov.in

Phone No:08532-226768

Fax No:08532-226316

ಸಂ.ರಾಮಪು/ಕಾಂತ್ರಿಕ/ಕಾ/ಅ/2025-26

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24-03-2026.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ).

ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ತೋರಿಸಿದ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ 2.0 ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಇಚ್ಛಿಸುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು WWW.KPPP.Karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ WWW.raichurcity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ	ಅನುದಾನದ ವಿವರ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂಬರ
1	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Colouring and Painting to Dr. B.R Ambedkar Community Hall at Mangalwarpet Ward No -14 In Raichur City Estimate Cost Rs. 2,15,000/-	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT 56755
2	ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ	Providing and Fixing of Cistern and Fixing of Gate to the Safai Karmachari Gravayard at Ward No. 12 In Raichur City Estimate Cost Rs. 1,80,000/-	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56756
3	2025-26 ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ ಅನುದಾನ	Providing Street Lights from Askihal to Bypass Junction On SH-20 Lingasur Road In Raichur City. Estimate Cost Rs. 100,00,000/-	DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT56757
4	Census Fund	Appointment of Technical Assistants (TA) and MTS (Multi Tasking Assistants) for Census 2027 within the jurisdiction of Raichur City Corporation. Estimate Cost Rs. 13,00,000/-	DMA/2025-26/SE7537

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ರಾಯಚೂರು.

DIP/RCR/787KSMCA/790/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ, ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಸಂ: 33/2025-2026

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.03.2026

ಮಂಡ್ಯ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಐಟಂಪಾರು ದರದ ಬೆಂಡರುಗಳ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಹಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **KW-1/2/3/4** ರ ರೀತಿ ದ್ವಿಲೋಕೀಕೃತ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಬೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. (1) ರಿಂದ (3), (5), (8) ರಿಂದ (14) ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **07.04.2026ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11-00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ:**26.03.2026** ರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **15.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**16.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**17.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.31** ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **18.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 6/9 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 11 (ಹನ್ನೊಂದು) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು,

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. (4) (6) ರಿಂದ (7), (15) ರಿಂದ (22) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಮಾತ್ರ

ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ವಿಭಾಗ ಮಂಡ್ಯ, ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**31.03.2026ರಂದು ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11-00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ **26.03.2026** ರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ವಿಚಾರಣೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ **02.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **04.04.2026 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30** ಘಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ **06.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00** ಘಂಟೆ ನಂತರ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು, ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ:**07.04.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಅಥವಾ ನಂತರದ ಕೆಲಸದ ದಿನಗಳು. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ. ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ: ಮಳೆಗಾಲ ಸೇರಿ 2/3/6/12 ತಿಂಗಳು ಒಟ್ಟು 11 (ಹನ್ನೊಂದು) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳು,

ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಪ್ರೈಕೆ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.890.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ.5.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಬೆಲೆ ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ರಂತೆ, ಕೆಲಸಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ., ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮುಂತಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೆಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ:

1. ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡದೆ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯ ಮುಂದೂಡುವಿಕೆ /ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಗೊಳಿಸುವ/ಬೆಂಡರ್ ನಿರಾಕರಿಸುವ ಹಕ್ಕನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

2. ಇನ್ನು ಮುಂದೆ ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕ್ರಿಯೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳು ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ದಿನ ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಬದಲಾಗಿ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾ.ಇಂ.ಲೋ.ಇ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಂಡ್ಯ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಾನೂನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

ನವನಗರ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ - 580025.

ಫೋನ್/ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 0836-2222901,

ಜಾಲತಾಣ: www.kslu.karnataka.gov.in

0836-2223392

ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: kslulibrary@gmail.com

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.ಕ.ರಾ.ಕಾ.ವಿ.ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ/ 2025-26/2661(A)

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.03.2026

ದರಪಟ್ಟಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ವಿಷಯ: ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಾನೂನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ವಿಭಾಗಕ್ಕೆ ಸನ್ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಒನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಡೆಲಿವರೇಸ್ ಚಂದಾದಾರಿಕೆಯ ವಿವಿಧ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ದರಪಟ್ಟಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಉಲ್ಲೇಖ: ಮಾನ್ಯ ಕುಲಪತಿಗಳ ಅನುಮೋದನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **20.03.2026**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಾನೂನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸನ್ 2026-27ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಒನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಡೆಲಿವರೇಸ್ ಚಂದಾದಾರಿಕೆಯನ್ನು ನೀಡಲು ವಿವಿಧ ವಿತರಕರಿಂದ ದರಪಟ್ಟಿಯನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ದರಗಳನ್ನು ಸೀಲ್ ಮಾಡಿದ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ “The Registrar, Karnataka State Law University, Navanagar, Hubballi-580025” ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **07.04.2026** ರ ಒಳಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸದರಿ ವಿಷಯದಕುರಿತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಕಾನೂನು ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯದ ಜಾಲತಾಣ www.kslu.karnataka.gov.inವನ್ನು ವೀಕ್ಷಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

- Law Journal Library
- Legal Classics
- Code of Federal Regulations
- European Center for Minority Issues
- US Attorney General Opinions
- US Federal Legislative History Library
- US Presidential Library
- US Statutes at Large
- US Supreme Court Library
- United States Code
- World Constitutions Illustrated

These Data Coverage is required.

ಸಹಿ/-
ಕುಲಸಚಿವರು

ಕಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ/1397/ಡೆಲಿವರೇಸ್‌ಪಟ್ಟಿ/2025-26

TOWN PANCHAYAT OFFICE NALATAWAD

No. TPN/CMIDP/2025-26

Date: 25.03.2026

E- Procurement Tender Notification

The Chief Officer Town Panchayat Nalatawad has invited Item rate tender from eligible KPWD registered Contractors for the work detailed taken under CMIDP2025-26. The tender is through e- procurement portal only as per KTPP - 2.0 in two cover system. INDENT NODMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT5669001.Last date for Submission of tender through e- portal :24-04-2026Up to 4-30 PM 02.Date of opening of the Technical bids :27-04-2026 @ 5.00PM 03.Date of opening of the Financial bids : 28-04-2026 @ 12.00PM 04.If any of above mentioned dates are declared as Govt. holidays, the next working day will be considered.

Sd/-	Sd/-	Sd/-
Chief Officer	Vice President	President
Town Panchayat Nalatawad	Town Panchayat Nalatawad	Town Panchayat Nalatawad

ಕಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/843/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.ಉನಸಬಿ4:ಒಆರ್: 2025-26

ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.03.2026

ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭೆಯು ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಮತ್ತು ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ **Standard Bid Document K.W.-3** ರ ನಿಯಮ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು (ಡೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವಂತೆ) e-Procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಬೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೆಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದವರಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in> ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

1. ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 13-04-2026 ಪೂರ್ವಾಪ್ತ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 2. Queries /Clarifications ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21-04-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 05.00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ 3. ಬೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-04-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 04.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 4. ತುಂಬಿದ ಬೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-04-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ 5) ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾದ ಬೆಂಡರುಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28-04-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.01 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. 6) ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ 1. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT40133, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ 13060000.00, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. 195900.00, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಮೂಲಕಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಅಂದಾಜು 3 ತಿಂಗಳು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ

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GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Greater Bengaluru Authority, Annexe-3 Building, N R Square, Bengaluru

No: DCF/PR/623/2025-26

Date: 26-03-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the Assistant Director and OIC, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Bengaluru has submitted an application and requested the Tree Officer/DCF, GBA for removal of trees standing inside the premises of NCDC, Bengaluru for Construction of proposed National Center for Disease Control Building.

The details are given below:

Name of the Project	Construction of proposed National Center for Disease Control Building (Karnataka State Branch) - Under the flagship program of our PM-ABHIM																	
Name of the Agency	National Centre for Disease Control, Bengaluru																	
Purpose for removal of trees	The trees are standing at the premises of the National Tuberculosis Institute,Bengaluru and coming within the project area of construction of proposed National Center for Disease Control Building, Bengaluru																	
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS Coordinates	<table><thead><tr><th>Bou ndary</th><th>Latitude (N)</th><th>Longitude (E)</th><th>Location</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>1</td><td>13°00'02.50"</td><td>77°34'55.59"</td><td rowspan="4">The trees are standing inside the premises of the National Tuberculosis Institute, No.08, AVLON, Bellary Road, Bengaluru</td></tr><tr><td>2</td><td>13°00'00.89"</td><td>77°34'56.08"</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>13°00'01.92"</td><td>77°34'58.22"</td></tr><tr><td>4</td><td>13°00'00.79"</td><td>77°34'58.67"</td></tr></tbody></table>	Bou ndary	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Location	1	13°00'02.50"	77°34'55.59"	The trees are standing inside the premises of the National Tuberculosis Institute, No.08, AVLON, Bellary Road, Bengaluru	2	13°00'00.89"	77°34'56.08"	3	13°00'01.92"	77°34'58.22"	4	13°00'00.79"	77°34'58.67"
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Enumeration of trees • Total No. of trees standing in the project area	65 Nos (Annexure 1)	Description of Trees, Species, Location, Area, etc., are uploaded in the website of GBA for information of all (www.bbmp.gov.in)																
Mode of communication of comments* (Public can send their comments either by E-mail / Post / Hand)	Address: a. The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R. Sqaure, Bengaluru -02 E-mail ID: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com b. The Assistant Director and OIC, NCDC, Bengaluru. E-mail id: jd.blr-ncdc@gov.in # A Copy of the Comments communicated directly to Assistant Director NCDC should also be marked to the Tree-Officer/DCF, GBA																	
Deadline for Filing Objections	Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notification in Newspaper *Objections/Comments/Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project																	

In view of the above, the suggestions/objections/comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.

Sd/- Tree Officer & Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA Bengaluru

Government of Karnataka

Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Shimoga District, Shimoga
Phone : 08182-271101/221010/222082, FAX : 277082,
E-mail : ka.shivamogga.dudc@gmail.com

No: SMGDC.DUDC/PLAN/15/89862/2022

Dated: 24.03.2026

Tender Notification

Executive Engineer, District urban development cell, Shivamogga invites tenders for works detailed in the table below. Two cover tender document procedure as per KPPP rules 2000 shall be followed.

1. Tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website <https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in>. 2. Tenders must be electronically submitted in e-procurement portal. 3. Further information, if required, can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer, DUDC, DC office, Shivamogga during working hours. 4. Head of account: Amrutha Nagarothana (Municipality)-4.

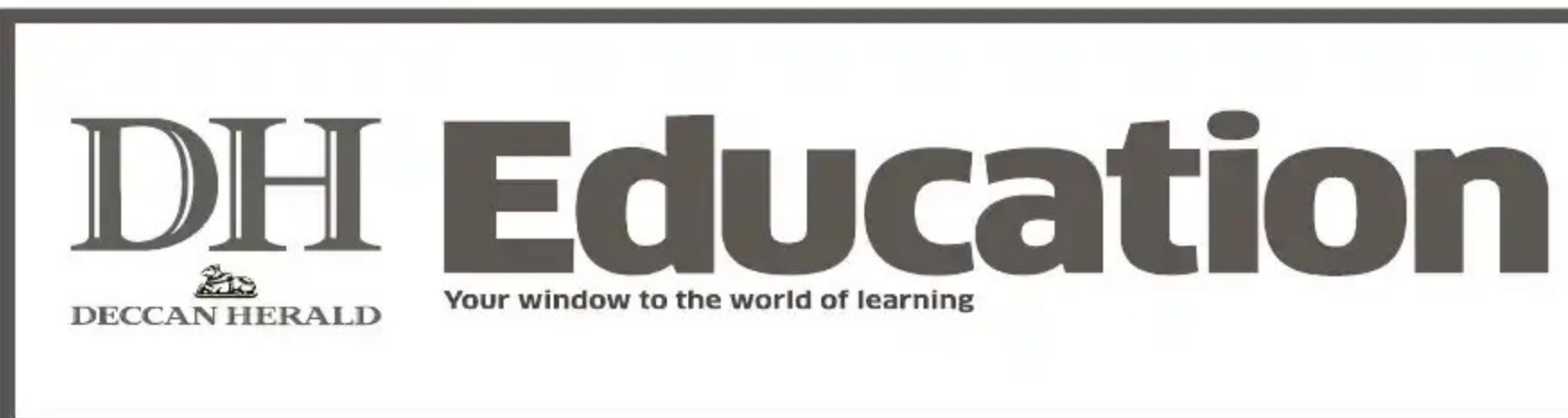
Sl. No	Name of Work	Amount put to tender (Rs. in Lakhs)	E.M.D. (Rs. in Lakhs)	Period of completion
1.	Providing and Installation of solar electric lights and solar heaters in Ward No.7 of Jai Bheem nagar for 74 houses (5 blocks) of PKGBY Building in Badravathi CMC Limits under Amrut Nagarothana Municipality Phase-4 Project. (DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT50373/CALL-2)	52.71 (Excluding GST)	1.06	4 Months
2.	Supply of three wheeler Vehicles to beneficiaries-Sagar CMC, Shikaripura, Shiralakoppa, Soraba TMC and Jog Kargal, Holehonnur, Anavatti TP Limits under Amruth Nagarothana Municipality Phase 4 Project. (DMA/2025-26/IND5634).	75.24 (Excluding GST)	1.51	2 Months

1) Last date & Time for receipt of tenders : **10.04.2026 5.30PM.** 2) Date & Time for opening of technical bid : **13.04.2026 11.00 AM.** 3) Date & Time for opening of financial bid : **17.04.2026 11.00 AM or later.**

Change in calendar of events (if any) will be published in kpp portal only. Paper notification will not be given.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
District urban development Cell,
Shivamogga District.

DIPR/SMG/No-147-03/zenkar/2025-26



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Centre urged to withdraw transgender bill curtailing self-identification right

Bill requires individuals to be assessed by a medical board

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court-appointed advisory committee on transgender rights has written to Union Social Justice Minister Virendra Kumar, urging the Central government to withdraw the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, for removing the right to gender self-determination.

The chairperson of the committee is former Delhi High Court judge Justice Asha Menon.

The Bill faced massive criticism for dismantling the right to gender self-identification by replacing it with a state-con-

trolled medical certification process, requiring individuals to be assessed by a medical board headed by a chief medical officer.

The committee also comprised trans rights activists Akkai Padmashali, Vyjayanti Vasanta Mogli, and Grace Banu; academic Sourav Mandal (Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School); Association for Transgender Health in India Chief Executive Officer Air Cmdr (Dr) Sanjay Sharma (retd); researchers Nithya Rajshekhar and Aparna Mehrotra; and senior advocate as amicus curiae Jayna Kothari.

The letter to the minister expressed shock over the denial of self-determination of gender as mandated in the 2014 judgment in the NALSA case.

The court had constituted the committee, headed by Justice Menon, in October 2025 to formulate an equal-opportunity policy for the protection of the rights of transgender persons.

It had then directed the Central government to come

out with an "equal-opportunity policy" within three months of the report being submitted by an advisory panel.

The court flagged the sporadic or a complete lack of implementation of measures to ensure the prevention of discrimination against transgender persons in various spheres of life, both public and private.

The Bill, which seeks to amend the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Act, 2019, also provided for graded punishment based on the gravity of harm inflicted on such people.

Replying to the debate on the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Amendment Bill, 2026, the social justice and empowerment minister had said that the proposed legislation was an effort to take along all segments of society together.

The minister asserted that the amendment will ensure that transgender persons continue to get legal recognition and protection.

Wrong to claim one religion as only true religion: Allahabad HC

PRAYAGRAJ, PTI: The Allahabad High Court has observed that claiming a particular religion to be the "only true religion" is wrong in a secular country like India and may amount to disparaging other faiths, thereby attracting provisions of law.

Dismissing a petition filed by Reverend Father Vineet Vincent Pereira, Justice Saurabh Srivastava said such statements prima facie fall within the ambit of Section 295A of the IPC, which deals with deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings.

In its order dated March 18, the court observed, "It is wrong for any religion to claim that it is the only true religion as it implies a disparagement of other faiths."

According to the FIR, the applicant allegedly held prayer meetings where he repeatedly stated that Christianity was the only true religion, which hurt the sentiments of members of another community.

During the probe, the investigating officer found no proof of illegal religious conversion but proceeded with filing a chargesheet over allegations of criticising other religions.

The court noted that India is a secular nation where people of different faiths coexist, and emphasised that Section 295A specifically addresses acts done with deliberate and malicious intent to outrage religious sentiments.

Andhra bus tragedy: Passenger risks life to save many

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A passenger emerged as an unlikely hero in the Andhra Pradesh bus tragedy on Thursday, which claimed 14 lives.

Despite sustaining injuries himself, Balaraju — a labour contractor who was travelling from Hyderabad to his hometown near Kanigiri — broke open the bus windows and pulled several co-passengers to safety. Eyewitnesses said that without his swift action, the death toll would have been far higher.

Balaraju is currently undergoing treatment.

Survivors recounted that most passengers were asleep when a loud bang jolted them awake, only to find the bus engulfed in fire and thick smoke within moments. While some managed to break the windows and jump out on their own, it was Balaraju who forced open the windows on his side and helped several others escape.

"It must have been around 5.45 am when I heard a loud sound and the bus suddenly veered to the right. Within moments, it caught fire. I spotted a sharp, sickle-like object and used it to break open two windows. I managed to push out seven or eight passengers. But as I tried to help another person, my vision blurred

from the thick smoke, and I jumped out of the window. I don't think anyone on the front side survived, except perhaps the driver and cleaner — and even the cleaner suffered severe burns," said Balaraju.

"I lost my grandmother and younger sister. Four of us boarded at Armoor in Telangana. Now only my sister's husband and I are alive," said one survivor.

Another passenger, Abraham, said the smoke spread so rapidly that it choked everyone on board and obscured their vision, making it nearly impossible to understand what was happening or find a way to safety.

Fresh trial can't be ordered without demonstrable prejudice: Apex court

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court has said criminal proceedings cannot be prolonged indefinitely on account of curable procedural defects, as it set aside the Allahabad High Court's order for a fresh trial in a murder case in view of the non-signing of the accused on the order of framing of charges passed in 2009.

A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and R Mahadevan said an order for a fresh trial could not be passed in a routine or mechanical manner.

It must be supported by a clear and reasoned finding that the earlier proceedings were vitiated to such an extent that their continuation would result in a miscarriage of justice, they said.

"The distinction between an illegality and an irregularity is well established. An illegality strikes at the root of jurisdiction or renders the trial fundamentally unfair, whereas an irregularity is a defect in procedure which does not vitiate the proceedings unless prejudice is demonstrated," said the bench in its March 25 judgment.

The court allowed an appeal by Sandeep Yadav, the son of the deceased, saying that in the absence of any demonstrated prejudice, the HC was not justified in invoking its jurisdiction under Section 482 CrPC to set aside an entire trial and direct that it be conducted afresh.

In this case, the court noted, the record indicated that the

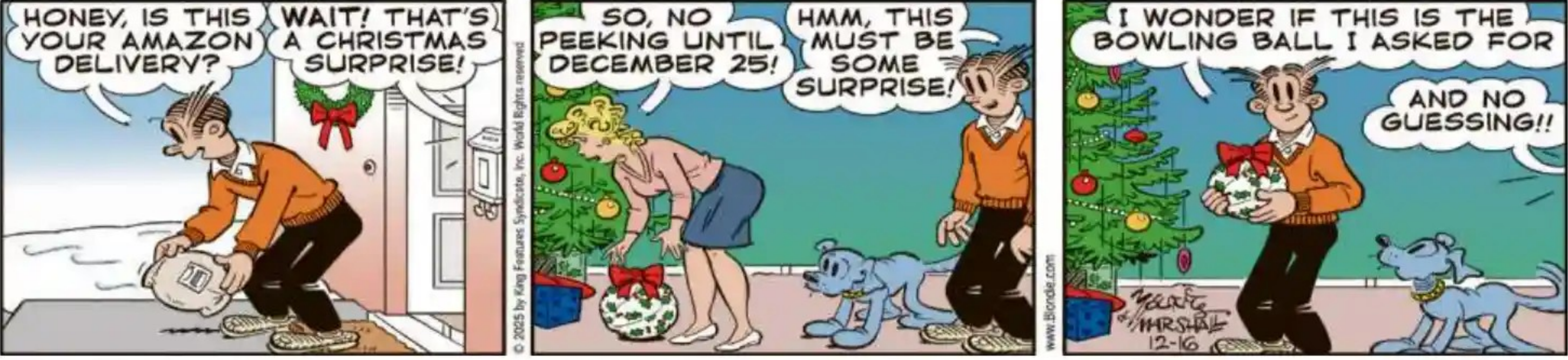
trial had progressed substantially. Charges were framed in the presence of the accused on June 1, 2009, and the prosecution examined several witnesses over a prolonged period.

The accused actively participated in the proceedings and extensively cross-examined the witnesses. The trial had reached an advanced stage and was nearing completion.

MISCELLANY

COMICS

Blondie



Beetle Bailey



Marvin



Hagar The Horrible



Peanuts



JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SULOY

POTAD

LWIPOL

GILGEG

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Print your answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles: BUDDY SHEEP SHADOW BONNET
Answer: Flying kites with the family had its — UPS AND DOWNS

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Kneurek

And to my granddaughter, I leave the remainder of my estate in order to follow her dreams.

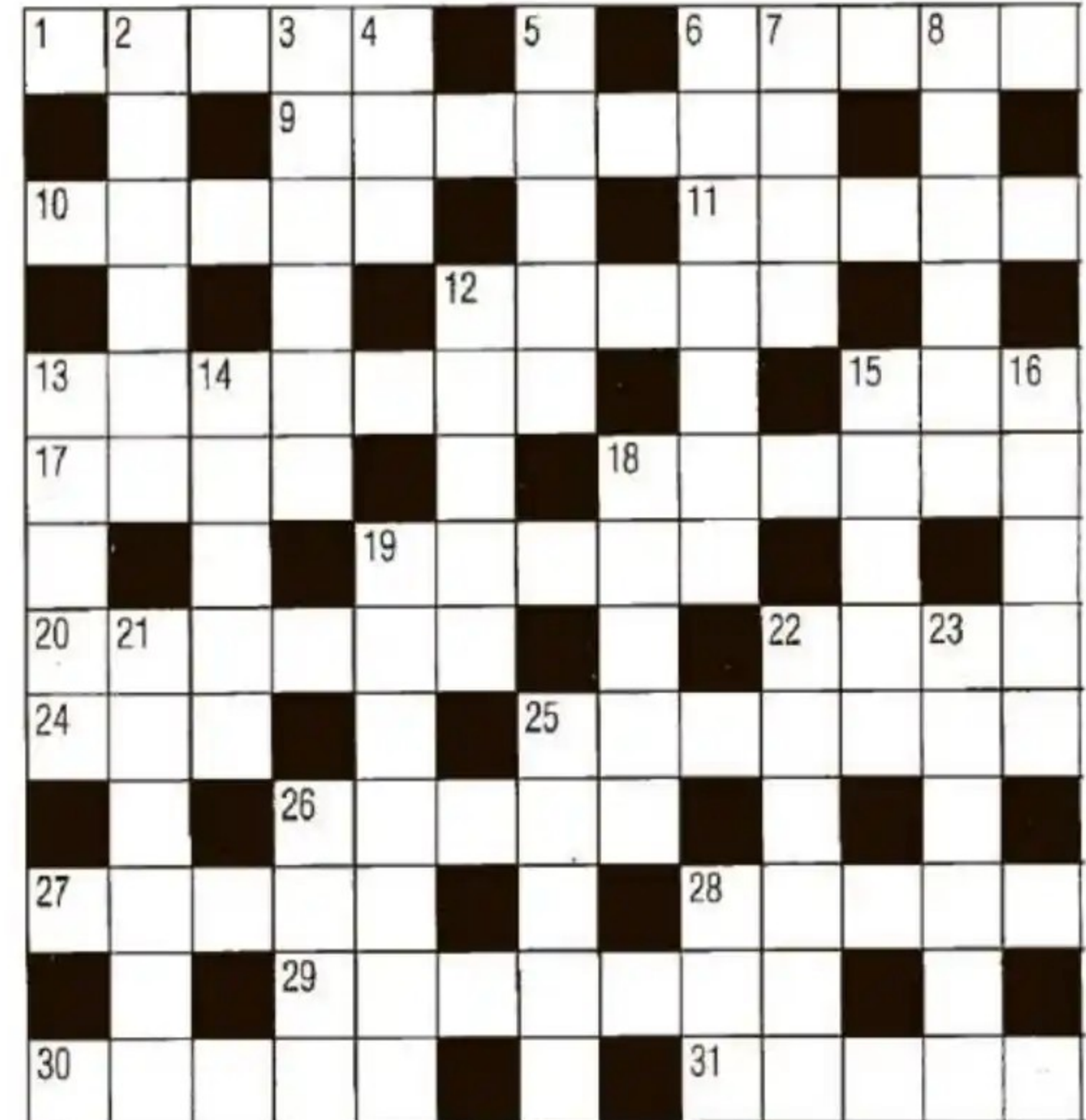
He loved you so much! It's so generous! Thank you, Daddy!

SHE INHERITED ENOUGH TO START HER BUSINESS THANKS TO HER GRANDFATHER'S ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12382



- ACROSS**
- Musty (5)
 - Cashier (6)
 - Clever (5)
 - Bathroom (2,5)
 - Tasteless (5)
 - Stage whisper (5)
 - Ship's bed (5)
 - Dwells (7)
 - Wager (3)
 - Spoken (4)
 - Book (6)
 - Symbol (5)
 - Insult (6)
 - Mountain range (4)
 - Number (3)
 - Master-of-ceremonies (7)
 - Reverie (5)
 - Jewelled headdress (5)
 - Understood (5)
 - Dress (7)
 - Foe (5)
 - Enquired (5)
- DOWN**
- Pulse (3)
 - Finish (3)
 - Melodies (5)
 - Post (7)
 - Network (4)
 - Regain (6)
 - Produced (5)
 - Criticise (5)
 - Material (5)
 - Brass instrument (5)
 - Anxious (5)
 - Poison (5)
 - Treatment (7)
 - Military unit (6)
 - Horridities (6)
 - Extol (6)
 - Man-made waterway (5)
 - Small drink (4)
 - Beverage (3)

CRYPTIC

- ACROSS**
- Sells wood for the fire, initially (5)
 - Good quality; shame about the loose end (5)
 - An artist seems confused by a king (7)
 - Not ashamed to be in favour of a bit of study (5)
 - In ancient Rome, they were common (5)
 - Poles apart? Buzz off! (5)
 - Approbation shown by more spectators (7)
 - Juice of sarsaparilla (3)
 - Tray design showing aesthetic sensitivity (4)
 - Complain about the beef? (6)
 - It's hard, being broke (5)
 - Best suit (6)
 - Right name for an academy (4)
 - Still a bit matey, albeit backward (3)
 - I'm ethical, but this is simply wrong (7)
 - More than a ton weight? (5)
 - Black mark, perhaps, when a chap gets out of line (5)
 - Mendelssohn's cat? (5)
 - Surrenders to a soldier with bad veins (5,2)
 - A motor may contain one, just in case (5)
 - He goes to the club to have a swim (5)
- DOWN**
- Greater Elgar composition with a rousing start (6)
 - Peevish as a Dwarf? (6)
 - Sorry about the publicity for the leisure centre (3)
 - Delivered port to the Turk's Head (5)
 - Irascible but not tasteless (7)
 - Lies around being insular (4)
 - Just the man to prejudice things? (6)
 - Sadly, they could be a wee bit peellie-wallie (5)
 - Like a shrew who's been called mousey? (5)
 - Strong drink (5)
 - How can it be sweet when a uniform is in rags? (5)
 - Something afoot for the cyclist (5)
 - Guardian of wealth, but has he no gem? (5)
 - As put in the sink, perhaps, or in outer space (7)
 - He's in the phone book (6)
 - Ivanhoe's lady in a squabble with another (6)
 - People rather like Dan? (6)
 - The man who came to dinner (5)
 - An indication of good amid evil? (4)
 - Not really a bad lie? (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12381

CRYPTIC

ACROSS: 4, Scrape 7, The count 8, E-state 10, F-O-ray 13, Teas 14, F-L-op 15, SE-LL 16, Deb 17, Ru-I-n 19, A-V-id 21, Discarded 23, Mole 24, Bass 26, Fan 27, Film 29, True 32, Tune 33, H-a-unt 34, Insult 35, Exploded 36, Broker.

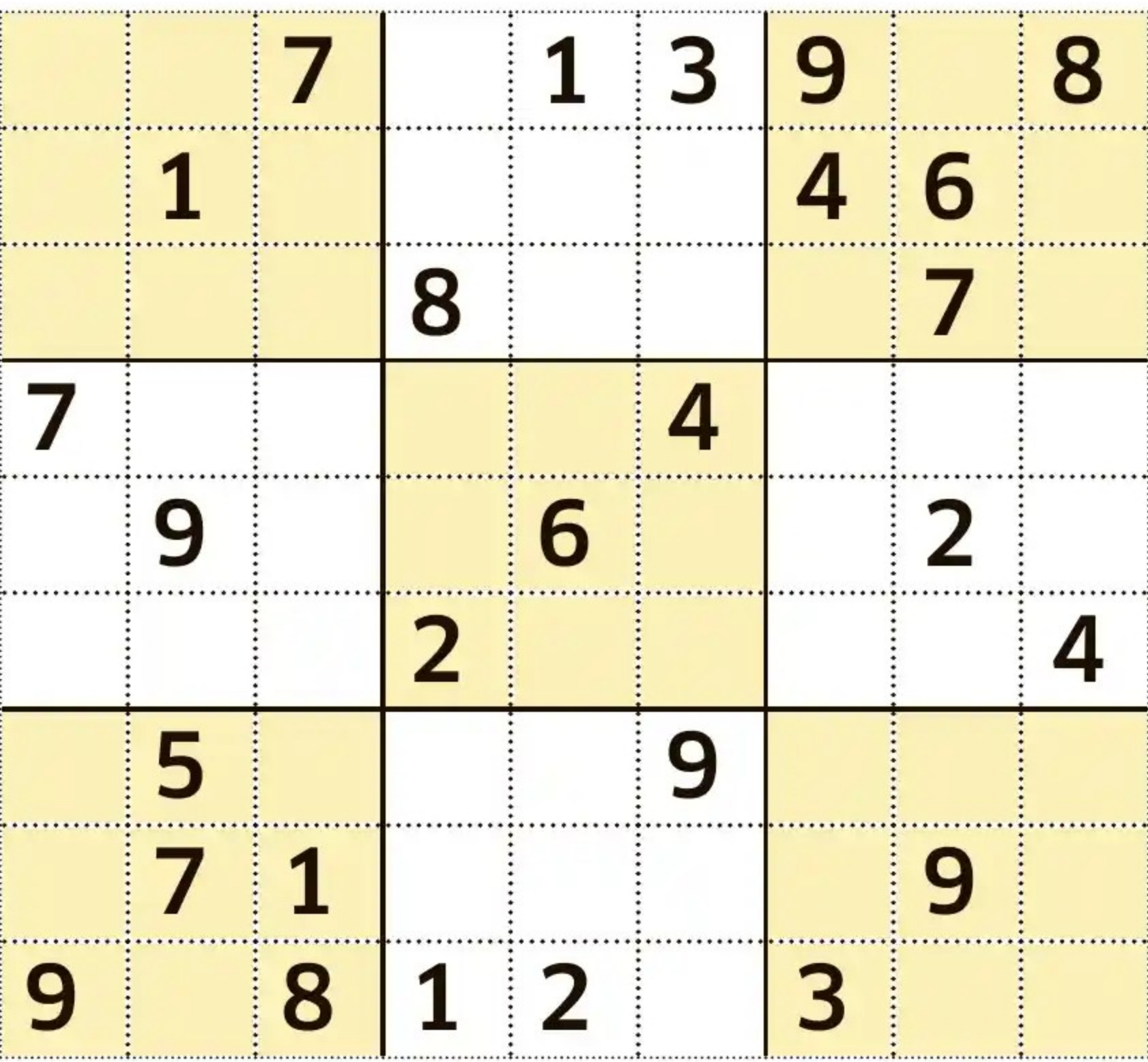
DOWN: 1, Staff 2, Met-ro 3, To-by 4, Steel 5, Rats 6, Pot-Ted 9, SA-lad-S 11, Old 12, Apri-L 13, Ten-able 15, Sic 16, Did 18, U-seful 20, Vesta 21, Do-N 22, Ram 23, Manner 25, Run 28, In-ter 30, Ruddy 31, Etude 32, Tuck 33, Hold.

EASY

ACROSS: 4, Shrewd 7, Tomorrow 8, Elated 10, Annie 13, Veal 14, Kegs 15, Pets 16, Big 17, Soot 19, Soul 21, Murderous 23, Deep 24, Rest 26, Dan 27, Head 29, Eros 32, Darn 33, Grade 34, Kimono 35, Dynamite 36, Charge.

DOWN: 1, Steak 2, Among 3, Tree 4, Sweet 5, Real 6, Weevil 9, Lassos 11, Nee 12, Issue 13, Veteran 15, Pod 16, Bus 18, Orphan 20, Outer 21, Men 22, Red 23, Danish 25, Hod 28, Erode 30, Radio 31, Sever 32, Door 33, Grab.

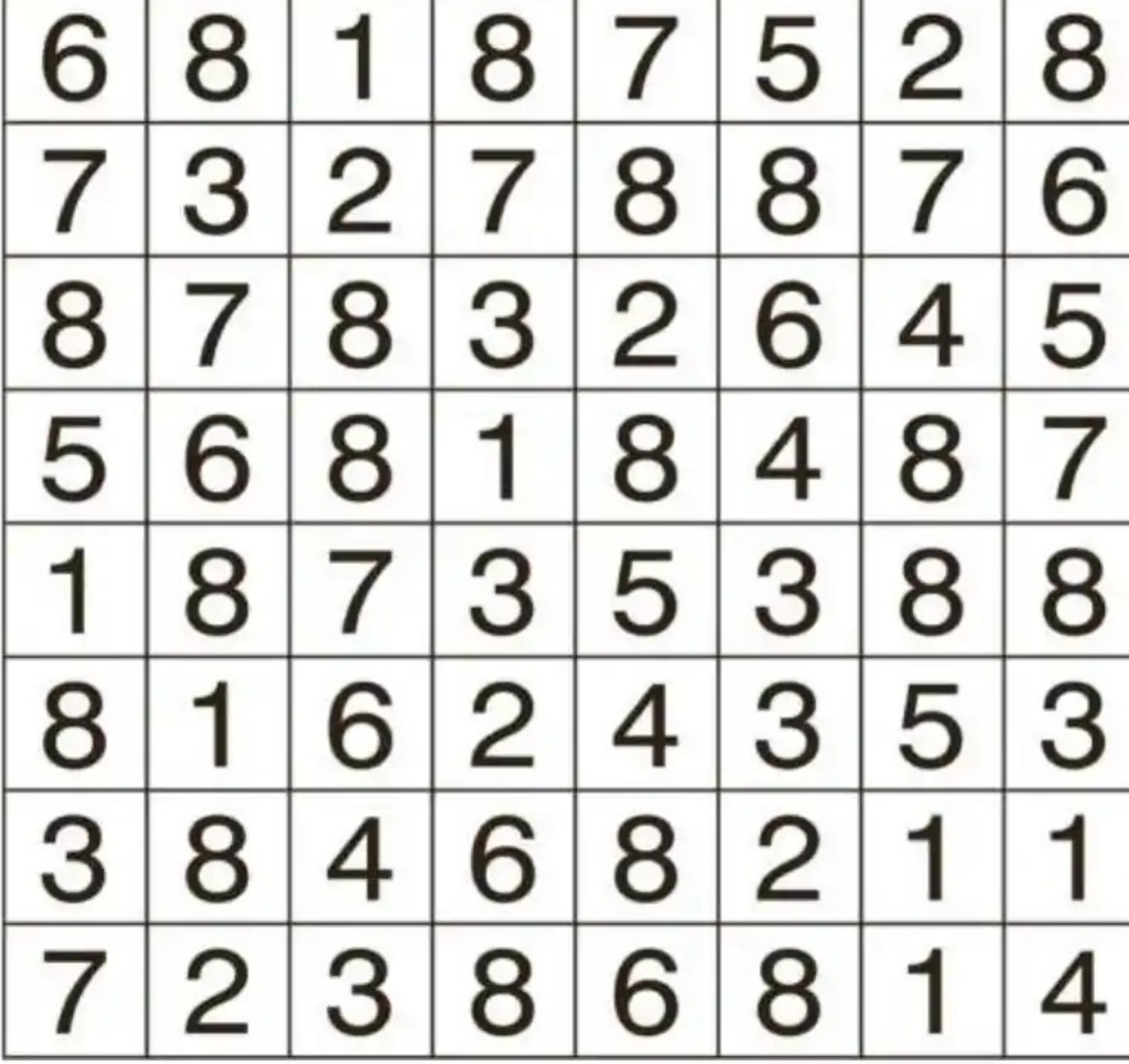
SU-DO-KU-6864



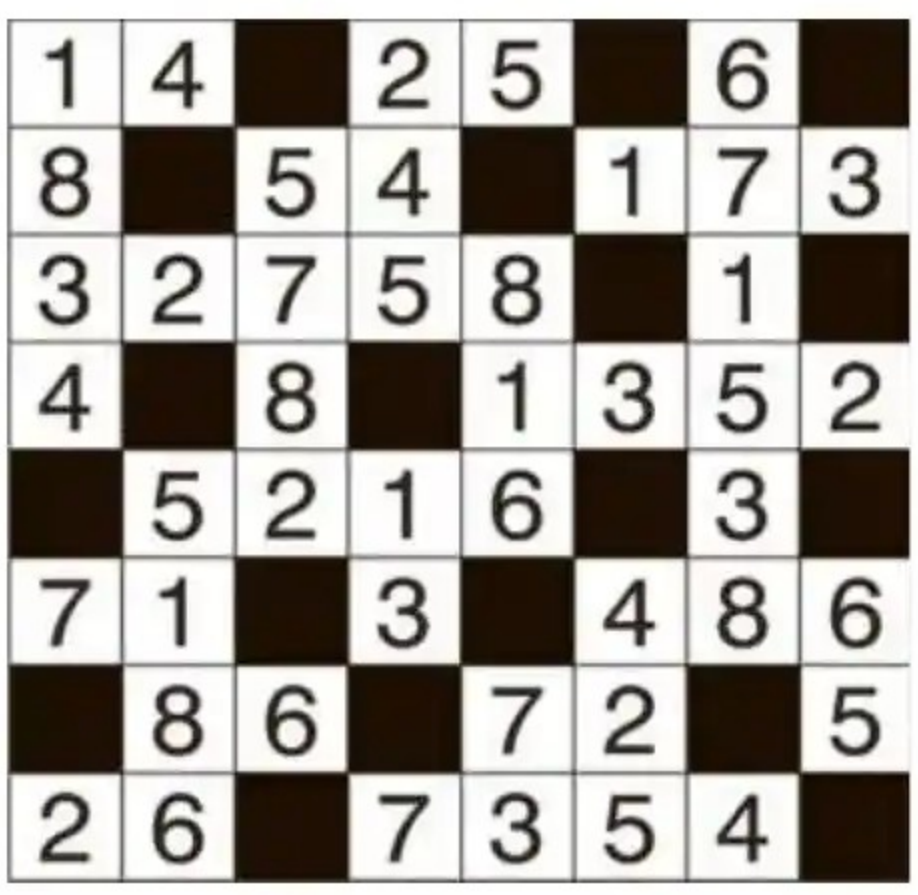
SOLUTION TO 6863

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from 1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

HITORI-3318

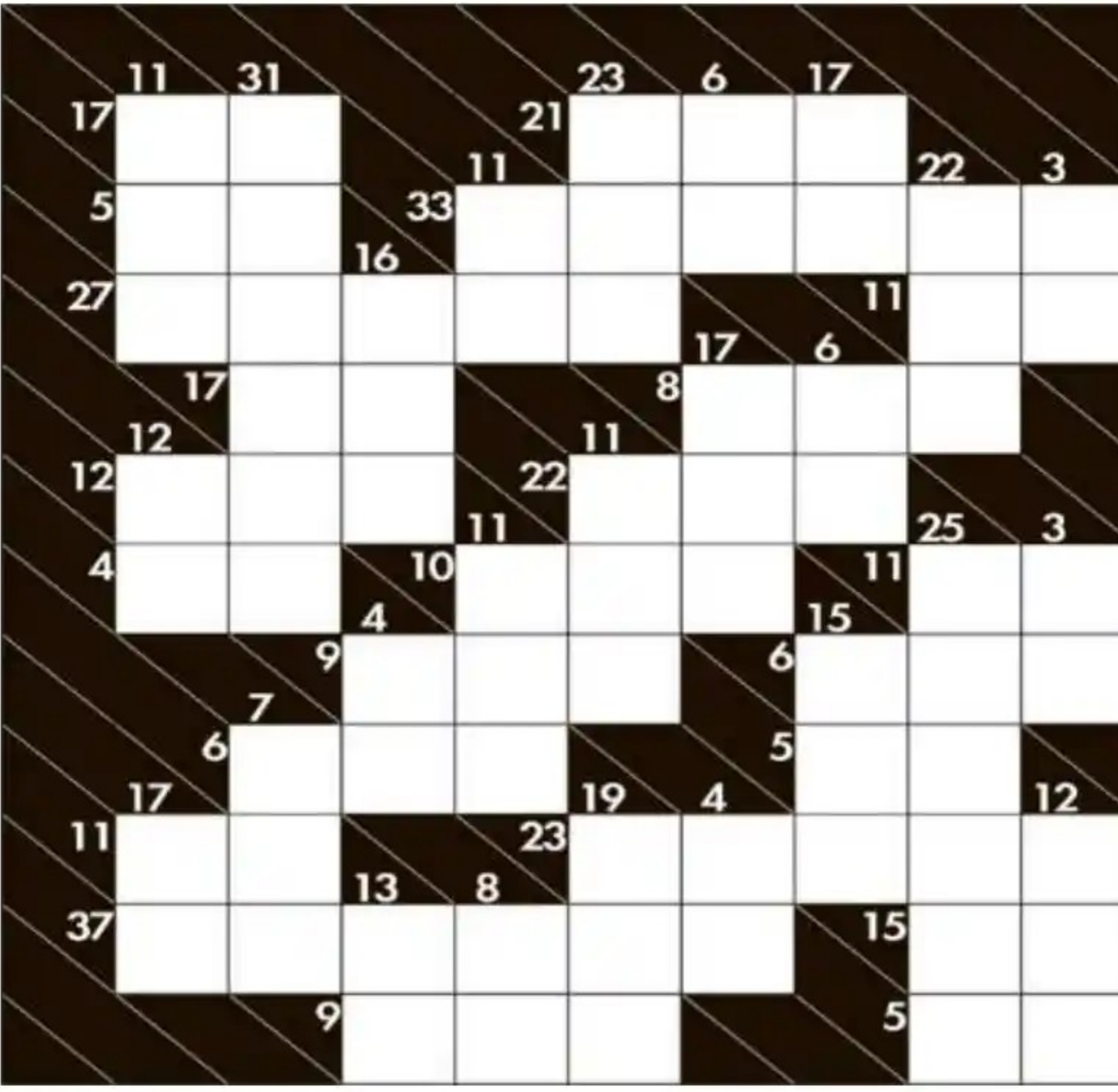


SOLUTION TO 3317



To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO - 3318

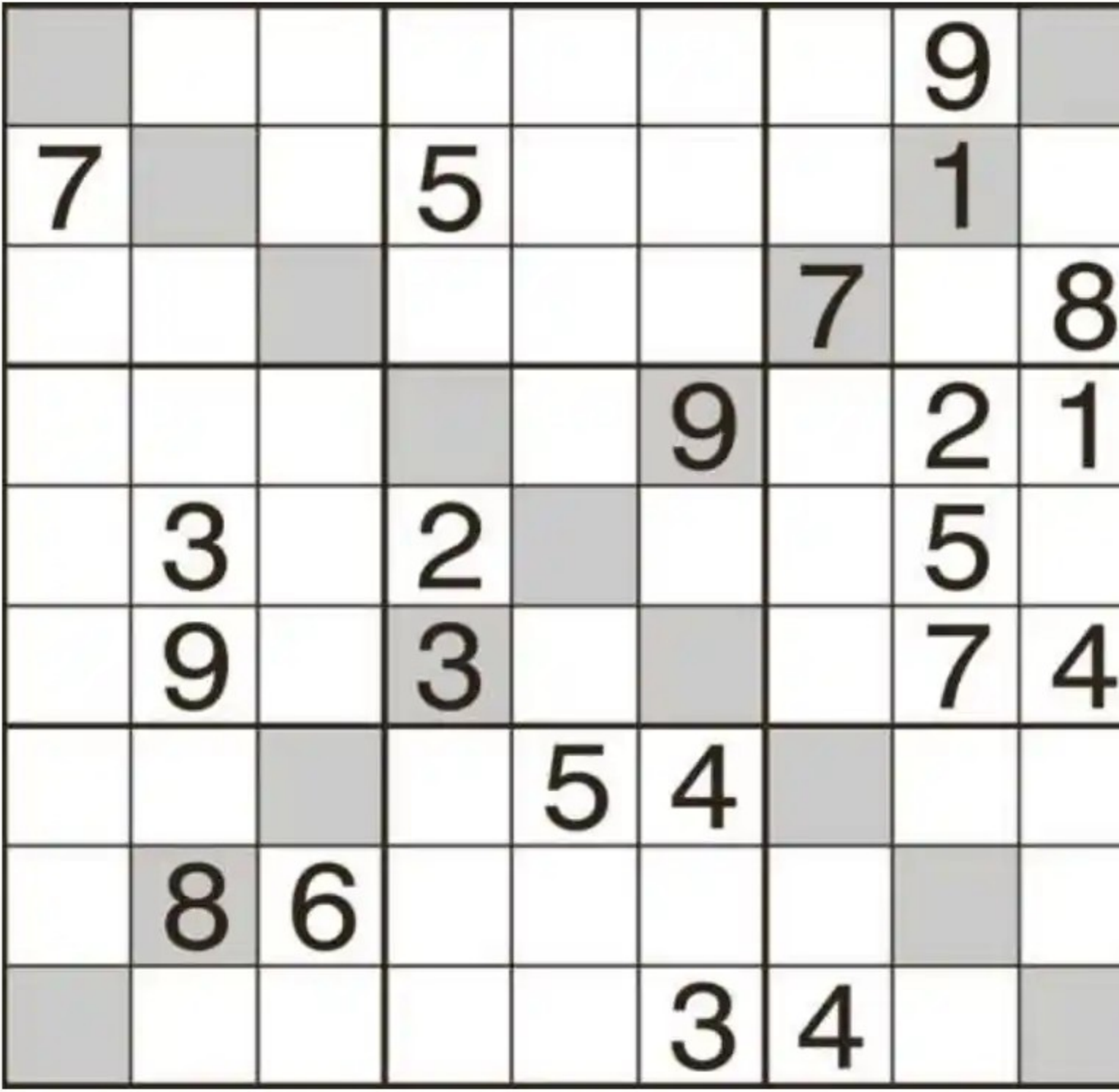


SOLUTION TO 3317

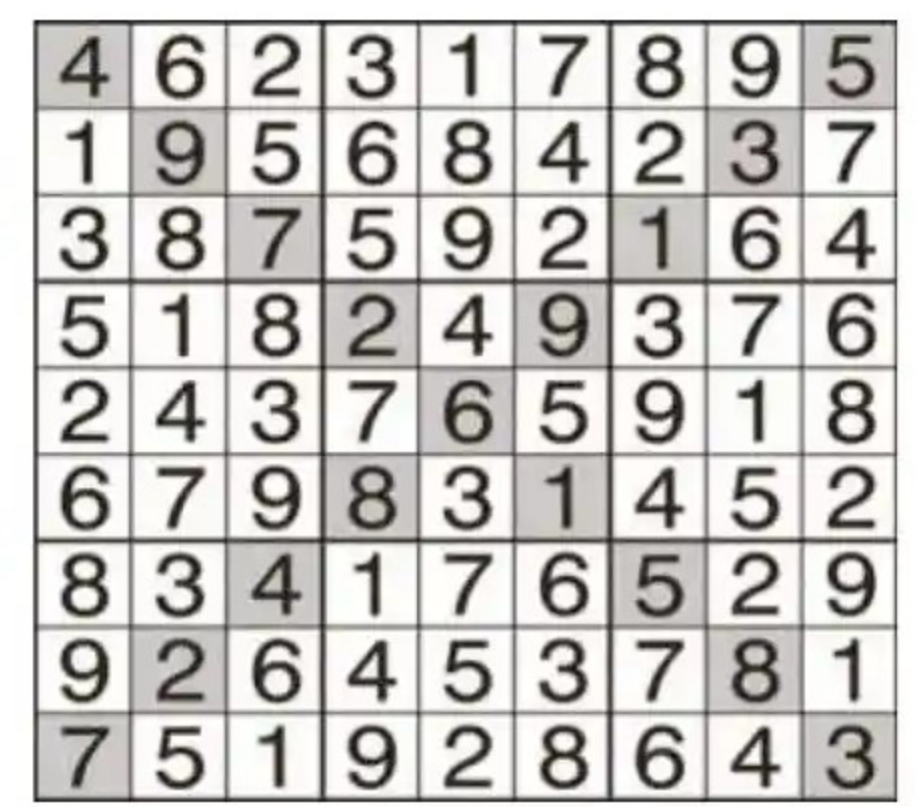


To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3867



SOLUTION TO 3866



To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Iranian Revolutionary Guard naval chief killed in airstrike: Israel

Strike near Bandar Abbas comes amid continuing Israel-US attacks

NYT NEWS SERVICE

The Israeli military killed the naval commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guard in an overnight attack, Israel's defence minister, Israel Katz, said on Thursday, taking out the leader of a force that has played a pivotal role in shutting down the Strait of Hormuz.

The commander, Alireza Tangsiri, was in an apartment hideout in the area of Bandar Abbas, a port city in southern Iran, with other Revolutionary Guard officers at the time of the attack, according to two Israeli officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the matter. Iran did not immediately comment on the commander's status.

Tangsiri is the latest senior Iranian official to be targeted and killed since Israel and the United States began their coordinated attacks against Iran on February 28. He oversaw the naval force's testing of drones and cruise missiles, according to the US Treasury, which im-



A video grab from footage released by Iran's state broadcaster, IRIB, shows what it says is a missile launched at Israel and US bases in the UAE and Kuwait on Thursday. AFP

posed sanctions on him in 2019 and 2023. In recent weeks, he posted repeatedly on social media about Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz, a vital oil and gas route, and about attacks carried out by the Guard's navy.

The United States and Iran showed little public sign that they were close to starting talks to end the war after nearly four weeks of fighting. The Israeli military said on Thursday that it had struck targets in Isfahan, a city in central Iran, and elsewhere in the country. It said it

had detected missiles launched from Iran toward Israel, reporting at least one impact.

Iran also launched fresh strikes against US allies and sites in West Asia. Iran said it had targeted a US military base in Kuwait and an air base used by US forces in Saudi Arabia with drones and missiles. It was not immediately clear whether those attacks had caused damage to either base.

The United Arab Emirates' air defences responded to Iranian missiles and drones, the

country's Defence Ministry said, and falling debris from a missile interception over the UAE killed two people, authorities in Abu Dhabi said.

Iran and Washington have both given mixed signals about the prospect of peace talks.

US President Donald Trump has said Iran is willing to negotiate because it is close to defeat. However, the Pentagon has also ordered the deployment of about 2,000 more soldiers to West Asia, suggesting it is preparing for contin-

Indian among two killed in UAE

At least two persons, including an Indian, were killed on Thursday when debris of missiles intercepted by the UAE's air defence system fell on a street in Abu Dhabi, PTI reports. "The incident has resulted in the deaths of two individuals of Pakistani and Indian nationality, and in injuries ranging from serious to moderate sustained by three individuals of Emirati, Jordanian and Indian nationality," officials said.

ued fighting. Privately, as late as Tuesday, Iranian officials had signalled that they were open to negotiations. Publicly, however, Iran has dismissed Trump's proposal and insisted that the fighting would end only on Iran's terms.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel has ordered the military to attack as much of Iran's arms industry as possible this week, according to two senior Israeli officials and two people briefed on the matter.

Iran allows India, some allies to use Strait of Hormuz

TEHRAN/NEW DELHI, PTI: Iran has allowed India and a number of other "friendly nations", including China and Russia, to use the Strait of Hormuz for commercial shipping, Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi has said.

Global oil and gas prices have surged after Iran virtually blocked the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow shipping lane between the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman that handles roughly 20 per cent of global oil and LNG.

West Asia has been a major source of India's energy procurement. "We have permitted certain countries that we consider friendly to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. We allowed China, Russia, India, Iraq and Pakistan to transit," Araghchi said.

At the same time, the Iranian foreign minister made it clear that ships linked to Iran's adversaries will not be allowed to transit through the strategic waterway. "We are in a state of war. The region is a war zone, and there is no reason to allow the ships of our enemies and their allies to pass through. But it remains open to others," he said.

WORLD AT A GLANCE



Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko (right) watches as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un holds a rifle gifted to him by Lukashenko in Pyongyang on Thursday. AFP

24 people killed after bus plunges into river in Bangladesh

► At least 24 people were killed and several others remain missing after a bus plunged into a river in Bangladesh while attempting to board a transport ferry, officials said on Thursday, PTI reports from Dhaka.

The accident occurred in the southwestern district of Rajbari at the Dauladia terminal when the bus fell into the Padma River at about 5.15 pm on Wednesday, officials said. Authorities estimate that the Dhaka-bound bus was carrying around 40 passengers, including several children, most of whom were returning to the capital after their Eid holidays. According to local fire service officials, 24 bodies have been recovered. Twenty-two bodies were recovered from inside the bus, including 11 women, six men and five children. " (Salvage vessel) Hamza retrieved the bus using its cranes," fire service official Sohel Rana told reporters at the scene.

He added that divers earlier recovered the bodies of two women in their late 50s or early 60s and found the others when the bus was salvaged around midnight on Wednesday after six hours of effort amid rough weather.

EU eases migrant detention rules

► European lawmakers voted Thursday to ease the setting up of new migrant detention centres outside the EU, known as "return hubs", AP/PTI reports from Brussels.

Members of the European Parliament voted 389-206 in favour, with 32 abstentions. Right-wing parties formed an alliance with far-right groups that they had previously shunned to pass the measure, while parties of the left and centre voted against.

Any EU nation can now negotiate on its own or in small coalitions to deport migrants not to their home countries but to facilities yet to be built outside the 27-nation bloc. Already, Greece, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria and Denmark have entered into negotiations with governments mainly in Africa to host sites that would hold migrants denied asylum.



Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva pours champagne over the country's first domestically manufactured supersonic aircraft during its unveiling ceremony in Gaviao Peixoto on Wednesday. AFP

Author Tracy Kidder dies at 80

► Tracy Kidder, an award-winning narrative non-fiction writer who turned everything from computer engineering to life in a nursing home into unexpected bestsellers, has died at the age of 80, AP/PTI reports from Washington.

Kidder's longtime publisher Random House confirmed his death on Wednesday: "Tracy's gifts for storytelling and tireless reporting are an enduring reflection of the empathy, integrity and endless curiosity he brought to everything he did." Kidder won the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award for his 1981 work "The Soul of a New Machine".

Melania Trump unveils AI robot

► United States First Lady Melania Trump was escorted at a global summit at the White House by a black-and-white humanoid AI robot that spoke in 11 different languages, including Bengali, PTI reports from Washington.

Created by robotics company Figure, the humanoid robot was introduced as the "first American-made humanoid guest in the White House" by Trump to a gathering of first spouses from 45 countries for the inaugural meeting of the Fostering the Future Together global coalition.

The robot, named Figure 3, welcomed the gathering — which included First Ladies from France and Israel, Brigitte Macron and Sara Netanyahu respectively — with a wave and "welcome" in 11 different languages.

US First Lady Melania Trump walks with a humanoid robot as she arrives for the Fostering the Future Together Global Coalition Summit in the East Room of the White House in Washington DC on Wednesday. AFP

States deploying more nuclear weapons, warns monitor

Report flags rising arsenals and erosion of arms-control framework

GENEVA, AFP

Nuclear states stepped up production and deployment of the weapons last year, monitors said on Thursday, calling it a "concerning development" at a time of intensifying armed conflicts.

Nearly all of the nine nuclear-armed states — Russia, the US, China, France, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, India, Israel and North Korea — have begun increasing their arsenals or have announced plans to do so, according to the authors of the annual Nuclear

Weapons Ban Monitor report. "The era of nuclear reduction is over," said Hans Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists (FAS) and a lead contributor to the report.

Speaking to reporters in Geneva, he warned that this marks "an enormous shift".

The report, published by FAS and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), estimated that the number of nuclear weapons quickly available for use hit 9,745 last year — an increase of 141 warheads over 2024.

That is the equivalent of 135,000 Hiroshima-sized bombs, just one of which killed 140,000 people in 1945, the monitor said. And 40 per cent of those warheads, or 4,012 of them, had been deployed on ballistic missiles in silos, on mobile launchers, submarines or bomber bases last year, the

report said, marking a rise of 108 from 2024. "The continued annual rise in deployed warheads is a concerning development," Kristensen said, warning that it was "increasing the risks of rapid escalation, miscalculation, and accidental use". "This makes the world more dangerous for us all."

There are still fewer nuclear weapons in the world than at the peak of the Cold War.

The report said the nuclear-armed states possessed 12,187 warheads combined at the start of this year, compared with more than 70,000 such weapons in the mid-1980s, and a reduction of 144 weapons from early 2025. But the move to make more nuclear weapons ready for use was all the more concerning against a backdrop of escalating conflicts in Europe, Asia and West Asia involving nuclear-armed states, the monitor said.

Pakistan takes exception to Jaishankar's 'dalaal' comments

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan on Thursday took a strong exception to the External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar's 'dalaal' comments, saying it showed a "deeper sense of frustration" on the part of the Indian leadership.

During an all-party meeting on Wednesday, the Indian government rubbished Pakistan's reported mediation in the West Asia conflict, saying there is nothing new in the efforts, as that country has been "used" by the US since 1981, sources quoted Jaishankar as saying.

"We are not a dalaal nation," he is said to have told the attendees of the meeting.

Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi when asked about the alleged "foul language" used by Jaishankar, said: "We dismiss the Indian statement with the contempt that it deserves."

Judge questions block on Maduro using Venezuelan funds

NEW YORK, REUTERS

A US judge on Thursday questioned the US government's justification for blocking ousted Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro from using the South American country's funds to pay for his legal defence against US drug trafficking charges, but said he would not dismiss the case against him on that basis.

Maduro and his wife, Cilia Flores, wore beige prison garb to the hearing in Manhattan federal court more than two months after US military forces captured them in a surprise raid on Caracas and ferried them to New York.

Maduro, 63, and Flores, 69, have pleaded not guilty to charges including narco-terrorism conspiracy and are jailed in Brooklyn pending trial. They had asked US

District Judge Alvin Hellerstein to dismiss the charges, saying their inability to rely on Venezuelan public funds is interfering with their right to have a lawyer of their choosing under the Sixth Amendment of the US Constitution.

Their lawyers have said Maduro and Flores cannot afford to pay their defence fees on their own.

Prosecutor Kyle Wirshba said the US sanctions blocking the payments were based on existing national security and foreign policy interests. Hellerstein appeared sceptical of that argument, noting that the US had relaxed sanctions on Venezuela since Maduro's ouster.

"The defendant is here, Flores is here. They present no further national security threat," said Hellerstein, a judicial appointee of Democratic President Bill Clinton.

Balendra Shah to be sworn in as Nepal's PM today

KATHMANDU, PTI

Balendra Shah 'Balen' was on Thursday elected as the leader of the parliamentary party of the Rastriya Swatantra Party, paving the way for him to become Nepal's youngest elected prime minister on Friday.

The 35-year-old rapper-turned-politician and senior leader of the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), which won a landslide victory in the March 5 poll, will also be the first person from the Madhes region to hold the country's top executive post.

Nepal chose former Kathmandu mayor and newcomer Balendra Shah 'Balen' — popularly known as Balen — and his RSP to form the next government, decimating the traditional parties in the first general election since last year's violent Gen Z protests that sought generational change and a corruption-free regime.

The RSP, which had projected Balen as its prime ministerial candidate, secured a massive 182 seats out of a total of 275 seats in the House of Representatives (HoR), making it eligible to form a majority government under Article 76 (1) of the Constitution.

Of the 275 members of the HoR, 165 are elected through



Rastriya Swatantra Party leader Balendra Shah (2nd right) and other lawmakers take an oath as parliamentarians in Kathmandu on Thursday. AFP

direct voting and 110 through proportional voting.

Soon after the oath-taking ceremony of the newly elected HoR members, the RSP's central committee meeting formed its parliamentary party. "Endorsing a proposal put forward by party chairman Rabi Lamichhane, the parliamentary party meeting unanimously elected Balen as its leader, formally qualifying him for the country's top executive post," Shanker Shrestha, secretary of the RSP's central organisation committee, said.

Balen has been given full authority to form the new cabinet under his leadership, Shrestha said. The members of the new cabinet will be finalised later in the evening, he added.

Raul Castro involved in US talks that are in early stages

HAVANA, AP/PTI: Former Cuban President Raúl Castro is involved in talks between the island and the United States, and they are still in the early stages, Cuban President Miguel Díaz-Canel said on Wednesday.

The talks come amid increasing tensions between the two nations, with Cuba plagued by nationwide blackouts resulting from a crumbling power grid and an ongoing oil blockade implemented by United States President Donald Trump, who has threatened tariffs on any country that provides oil to Cuba and recently said he would have "the honour of taking Cuba" soon.

The talks overall are being handled collectively by the Cuban government, Díaz-Canel told Spanish leftist leader Pablo Iglesias in a videotaped interview that lasted more than an hour and was shared by state media.

Iglesias was in Cuba as part of a delegation of some 600 activists from 33 countries who arrived last week to deliver humanitarian aid.

"A process of conversations that leads to an agreement is a long process," Díaz-Canel told Iglesias, who produced the interview for his crowd-funded TV channel, Canal RED.

SCHOLARS DRAW LINE

Mathematicians threaten to boycott conference in US

NYT NEWS SERVICE

More than 1,500 mathematicians are demanding that their field's most prestigious meeting be moved from the US.

Mathematicians are threatening to boycott the field's largest and most prestigious gathering this summer if it takes place in the US, as currently planned. Every four years since the turn of the twentieth century, the International Congress of Mathematicians (ICM) has brought together mathematicians from all over the world to share the latest breakthroughs and plot the field's future.

Famous speeches delivered at the congress have gone on to redefine entire subfields of mathematics. The ICM is also where mathematicians' most hallowed prize, the Fields Medal, is awarded. This July, the ICM is slated to take place in Philadelphia.

Now a petition to move the event elsewhere is circulating among mathematicians. It cites recent American military actions in Venezuela and Iran, the suspension of visas from 75

countries and the continued presence of federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents across major US cities as contrary to the ICM's goal of fostering "a sense of international unity amongst mathematicians."

As of this writing, more than 1,500 mathematicians have signed the petition, which states that they plan to boycott the event if it is not moved outside the US. The list of signatories includes many of the field's most prominent names, more than 50 of whom have spoken at previous congresses. The petition cites the 2022 decision by the ICM's organising body, the International Mathematical Union (IMU), to move the last congress out of Saint Petersburg, Russia, in response to the country's full-scale invasion of Ukraine earlier that year.

"Holding the ICM in the US, after it started two illegal wars, represents a double standard, given that, practically immediately after Russia invaded Ukraine, the ICM in Russia was cancelled," says Michael Harris, a mathematician at Columbia University.

Ops against Afghan Taliban to continue: Pak

ISLAMABAD, PTI: Pakistan said on Thursday that the operation against the Afghan Taliban was ongoing and would continue until the objective of eliminating the threat of terrorism was achieved.

Foreign Office spokesperson Tahir Andrabi was asked at the weekly press briefing whether Operation Ghazab Lil Haq had been stopped. "Operation Ghazab Lil Haq is ongoing. It is a precise, targeted military campaign directed against terrorist leadership and their support and command infrastructure, logistics networks, and facilitators and abettors of these terrorist acts within the Taliban regime and in Taliban-controlled areas," he said.

He added that, in deference to the Eid al-Fitr celebrations and in response to requests from "brotherly Islamic countries", a temporary pause was observed during this period, which concluded at midnight between March 23 and 24.

"So, operations under Operation Ghazab Lil Haq continue now until the objectives are achieved, and until the Afghan Taliban regime reviews its misplaced priority of supporting terror infrastructure and terror proxies over the welfare of its own Afghan people. Our position is anchored in this broad policy statement," he said.

Venture capital firms shift focus to energy tech startups

No blanket pull-back from AI, but renewed push towards renewables seen

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid the ongoing geopolitical tensions in West Asia and instability, venture capital (VC) firms are slowly shifting their focus towards renewable energy startups. Data sourced from market intelligence firm Tracxn revealed that in January-March 2026 alone, energy tech startups raised \$640.6 million, accounting for almost 36% of the total funding they raised in the full year 2025. In 2025, energy tech startups raised \$1.8 billion

across 139 rounds, and in 2024, they raised \$1.4 billion across 209 rounds.

According to VCs and analysts that *DH* spoke to, there is a renewed push towards renewable energy and energy security in India. They said that renewables are finally getting the serious attention they deserve, and global uncertainty is accelerating that conversation rather than creating it from scratch.

There are over 4,900 energy tech startups in the country, and out of these, 805 startups are funded. These include Ather Energy, Yulu, Euler Motors and Blu-Smart. When it comes to renewable energy tech, there are 312 startups in India, including Ecofy, Aerem and SustVest, among others.

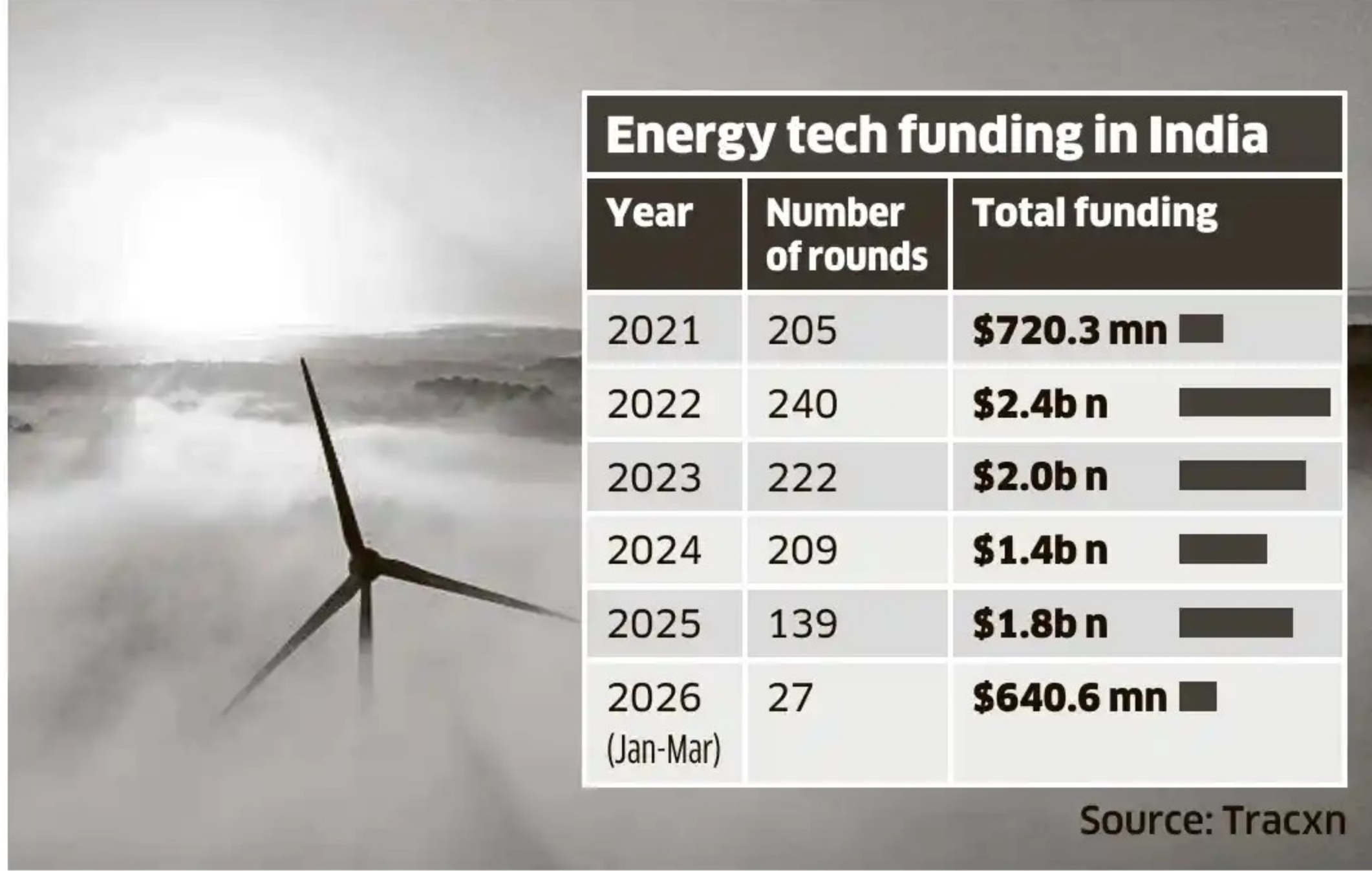
Vasudha Madhavan, Founder & CEO, Ostara Advisors, said some of their portfolio companies are getting calls to say how

they can potentially receive an investment or look at how they can increase partnerships.

She said areas such as biofuel, solar and others should receive a boost because the narrative seems to have shifted now from just decarbonisation to energy security, which is an even bigger priority for India. “These will continue to drive investments in renewables, deeptech, sustainability and energy transition,” she added.

Is there any decrease in AI funding as VCs are now focusing on energy tech? Venture capitalists that *DH* spoke to said there would not be any slowdown in funding in AI startups, as West Asia has been focusing more on AI.

Umakant Soni, Co-Founder and CEO of BharatI.AI, which is building the first humanity-centric AI City in Bengaluru, said there is not much impact on fund-



ing in the short-term; however, if this continues for a long time, expensive oil makes everything tricky. “Strategic autonomy in energy and defence will drive investment themes,” he said.

Ongoing geopolitical tensions are introducing a degree of uncertainty across global

financial markets, which can indirectly influence startup ecosystems worldwide, Neha Singh, Co-Founder, Tracxn, said.

According to her, this can impact late-stage investments and IPO timelines as global investors reassess exposure to higher-risk assets.

Analysts stated that companies might go slow when it comes to funding in AI startups, but Abhishek Srivastava, General Partner at Kae Capital, is of the view that there would not be a blanket pull-back from AI as a category.

If anything, the fundamentals driving AI adoption remain strong. What we are seeing, however, is investors becoming more deliberate. There's a sharper focus on unit economics, revenue visibility, and whether a startup can weather a prolonged period of uncertainty. The frothy, thesis-driven bets of 2021-22 are largely behind us. Today, even the most-compelling AI pitch needs to show a credible path to value, not just a demo, he added.

In India, the AI conversation is very much alive across sectors, whether it's education, health & wellness, compliance, or logistics. “What's changing is the

bar. Investors are asking harder questions about defensibility. Is this truly an AI-native solution or just a lean wrapper? Does the AI component drive the margin structure or is it just a feature? Those conversations are healthy, and honestly overdue. The deals that are slowing down are the ones that couldn't answer those questions clearly to begin with,” he said.

Srivastava said there's definitely a renewed urgency around energy security and climate, and the two are closely linked in this environment. “We are seeing more VC interest in energy transition plays in India, particularly in distributed energy solutions, microgrids, home energy automations,” he said, adding that he would not frame it as VCs choosing renewables over AI. It's that renewables are finally getting the serious attention they deserve, he opined.

‘India’s IT spending will grow 13.4% this year, 13.6% in 2027’

Report says tech salaries will jump by nearly 10% in India

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

With domestic enterprises accelerating cloud adoption, India's IT spending will grow by 13.4% in 2026, down from 13.7% in 2025. In 2027, it will grow at 13.6%, according to global research and advisory firm Forrester's Asia Pacific Tech Market Forecast, 2026 to 2030 report.

Data localisation rules are also driving major onshore infrastructure investment. The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Rules 2025 mandates data residency for significant data fiduciaries, spurring data centre growth of more than 20% in the next year.

The report said software spending follows a similar trajectory as vendors embed AI capabilities into renewal pricing. “The application moderni-

sation cycle is well-underway, with enterprises investing in IaaS, hyper automation, and operational efficiency improvements. GCC expansion and government digital programmes provide additional momentum, but are not the primary drivers. CIOs should anticipate continued double-digit growth, but plan for software cost inflation and build data governance capabilities ahead of the 18-month DPDP compliance window,” the report added.

The highest tech spending growth in the Asia Pacific region in 2026 will be in Vietnam, India, the Philippines, and Indonesia.

The report also mentioned that the average IT salary in APAC will rise by about 5% in 2026, outpacing inflation. Tech salaries will jump by nearly 10% in India, the highest in the region.



The research firm estimates that the APAC region will spend over \$437 billion on acquiring new technology between 2025 and 2030. Total spending on technology will grow by 9.3%, driven by investments in software, services, communications equipment, and tech outsourcing, but cost pressures such as software inflation and hardware spikes, regulatory fragmentation, tariffs, energy shocks, uneven regional growth, and talent shortages will reduce the real impact of that investment.

“India's double-digit technology spending growth is

being propelled by a combination of cloud acceleration, regulatory clarity, and strong domestic demand,” said Ashutosh Sharma, Vice-President and Research Director at Forrester.

“With data localisation shaping infrastructure strategies and enterprises expanding AI-ready platforms, the priority now is to digitise processes beyond core systems and build scalable data foundations. CIOs that balance compliance requirements with investments in automation and AI-enabled capabilities will be best-positioned to capture this next phase of growth,”

Sharma said.

The report also mentioned that this year, the acute talent shortages will shift tech spending to automation and digital employee experience (DEX) platforms.

“Asia Pacific's technology spending momentum remains strong, but the headline growth numbers mask a more complex reality,” said Frederic Giron, VP and Senior Research Director at Forrester. “CIOs across the region are grappling with software inflation, hardware volatility, and increasing regulatory divergence that directly impact modernisation plans. The conflict in West Asia adds a new macro headwind — sustained energy cost inflation will compress GDP growth across oil-dependent countries in Asia. The CIOs in those markets should expect IT budgets to come under pressure if the conflict lengthens,” Giron added.

To navigate this environment, leaders must shift to highly-targeted investments — prioritising automation, AI-enhanced platforms, and modernisation initiatives that deliver measurable productivity gains, he added.

Sebi reviewing HDFC Bank ex-chairman’s letter: Sources

MUMBAI, REUTERS

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has begun a preliminary review of the resignation letter of former HDFC Bank chairman Atanu Chakraborty for possible violations of rules governing directors of listed companies, sources said.

Chakraborty told Reuters that he was not aware of any examination by the regulator.

In his resignation letter, Chakraborty cited “certain happenings and practices within the bank” that he said were “not in congruence” with his personal values and ethics.

He did not elaborate. The letter triggered an 8.7% slide in the stock the following day and wiped \$16.3 billion in market value over three sessions.



A Sebi department that oversees corporate disclosures and governance is examining the former chairman and other directors for alleged failures to do their fiduciary duties, the sources said.

“(The) examination is to verify claims made in the resignation letter and whether other directors were aware of any material information and did not document them,” a source added.

The Reserve Bank of India, the primary regulator in the case, said last week that

it had found “no material concerns on record as regards its (bank's) conductor governance”.

“We are also checking if there was any misreporting of any events which could impact minority investors,” a source said, adding that Sebi was reviewing the adequacy of disclosures by both the bank and Chakraborty.

India's rules for listed companies require independent directors to assess the quality and timeliness of information flow between management and the board.

Email queries sent to HDFC Bank and Sebi were not immediately answered.

Chakraborty told Reuters by text that he had not made any insinuations in his letter. He added that no one from the regulator had contacted him and that he was unaware of any Sebi review.

ScaleFlux opens innovation centre in Bengaluru for AI, data infrastructure

BENGALURU, DHNS: US semiconductor firm ScaleFlux, which is focused on advanced storage and memory solutions, on Thursday inaugurated its new office in Bengaluru.

As part of its expansion, the company, which has previously invested \$30 million in India, plans to invest an additional \$30 million over the next 2-3 years, and will also hire over 100 engineers during this period.

About 60 people are employed in India currently, and the company plans to double headcount this year. ScaleFlux works with leading organisations across payments, hyperscale infrastructure, cybersecurity, and AI.

The new centre will serve as ScaleFlux's India Design and Innovation Centre, focused on advancing next-generation storage technologies for AI, cloud, and hyperscale infrastructure. It said the India

team will play a key role in global product development, contributing to areas such as ASIC/SoC design, storage architecture, performance optimisation, and platform validation.

“India represents a critical pillar in our global innovation strategy, and the launch of our Design and Innovation Centre in Bengaluru marks a significant milestone in our growth journey. With the rapid evolution of AI, cloud, and data-intensive applications, the need for intelligent and efficient storage infrastructure has never been greater,” said Hao Zhong, CEO and Co-founder, ScaleFlux.

With India emerging as a key hub for engineering talent and digital infrastructure, ScaleFlux's Bengaluru centre will support the development of high-performance, efficient storage solutions for data-intensive workloads across enterprises and hyperscalers.

State govt inks agreements for fresh Rs 51,469 crore investment

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Karnataka government, on Thursday, signed agreements with 48 companies for an investment commitment worth Rs 51,469 crore.

Multinational companies from the aerospace, automotive, biotechnology, and manufacturing sectors signed agreements at the Invest Karnataka Conclave 2026 here on Thursday, committing investments in the presence of Industries Minister MB Patil.

“These investments are over and above those announced during the Global Investors Meet and the Davos Summit and are the result of continuous efforts over the past two months. Efforts to attract investments will continue in a sustained manner. These commit-

ments are expected to generate around 70,000 jobs and will further strengthen Karnataka's position as a leading industrial and employment hub in the country,” Patil said.

He noted that the identified sectors and the scale of investments reflect strong confidence among industry leaders in Karnataka's industry-friendly policies, ease of doing business, availability of skilled manpower, and the state's capability to implement projects efficiently.

MoUs were signed with companies such as Asciscades, Ultraviolette, SFO Technologies, Mahindra Aerospace, and Yazaki, among others. More than 100 representatives from leading companies and tech startups participated in the conclave.

Namma Yatri acquires Dutch mobility firm

BENGALURU, DHNS: Moving Tech Innovations (MTI), the firm behind open mobility platforms including Namma Yatri, Yatri Sathi, Bharat Taxi and ChennaiOne, on Thursday announced the acquisition of Netherlands-based mobility firm Automicole Holding BV.

Today, Moving Tech operates the world's largest open infrastructure for shared mobility, having completed over 150 million trips and enabled more than Rs 2,500 crore in driver earnings without commissions. With the acquisition, Moving Tech takes the model to Europe.

Automicole has developed public mobility and digital parking solutions rooted in strong local partnerships.

DH INTERVIEW

‘Private sector should play central role in management of industrial cluster scheme’

The Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA), which was approved by the Union Cabinet recently to create 100 industrial clusters, is a timely intervention, expected to give a boost to manufacturing activities in the country, says **Nirmal Kumar Minda**, President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham). However, he believes that the best-intended results of the initiative could be achieved if development and management of the industrial clusters remain in the hands of private players. In an interview with **Gyanendra**

Keshri of *DH*, Minda also touches upon the need for improved skilling, including behavioural and sector-specific training, to support India's industrial growth and export competitiveness. On the West Asia conflict, he says the global economic growth would be much below the IMF's projection of 3.3%. Despite the challenges, India is likely to maintain its position as the fastest-growing major economy. *Edited excerpts:*

What is your view on the plug-and-play industrial parks initiative announced by the government?

The Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana (BHAVYA) or plug-and-play industrial park is a very positive development for MSMEs and the overall economy. It comes with a substantial outlay of Rs 33,000 crore of outlay. Coun-

tries like Japan, Vietnam and Indonesia have developed manufacturing through cluster models. In Europe, a similar system is available. Though details are yet to be released, we are hopeful that it will give a big boost to manufacturing in the country.

What should be the role of the private sector in the BHAVYA scheme?

The private sector should play the central role in the development and management of industrial clusters. The government's role should be to provide basic facilities like power, water, and gas up to the industrial park's boundary, while the internal management and development would be handled by private entities. The government should identify the land and let private builders develop it. Industries can move in and start operations quickly, much like moving into a furnished apartment.

An agency within the industrial park could handle all necessary

government permissions like factory and labour licences. There can be a dedicated agency to manage labour, including hiring and training and complying with labour laws. This will be very helpful for MSMEs, because they don't have resources to handle multiple things. Once other things are handled, they can focus on their core businesses.

How will the ongoing conflict in West Asia impact the Indian economy?

The conflict is bound to have a substantial impact on the economy globally. The global economic

growth this year is going to be much lower than the 3.3% projection of the IMF. Multiple sectors are impacted. High oil prices have impacted industries. There is a big negative impact on tourism. So far, as the Indian economy is concerned, I think we will maintain our position as the fastest-growing major economy. This fiscal, we are projected to grow at 7.6%, and next year, over 7%. Our growth is led by domestic consumption. Despite the geopolitical challenges, our exports have been doing well. Our overall exports have registered positive growth.



Nirmal Kumar Minda

IN BRIEF

Chahar returns to Surrey

► India leg-spinner Rahul Chahar will return to Surrey to play in eight County championship matches, starting with the fixture against Hampshire at the Oval on June 7, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Easy win for CV Ramanagar

► R Sachin netted a hat-trick while Rajendran A and Satish Kumar MR scored a brace each as CV Ramanagar thrashed BTM Layout 8-1 in the second edition of the Chief Minister's Cup football tournament at the BFS on Thursday, reports DHNS. **Results:** CV Ramanagar: 8 (Rajendran A 5th, 86th, R Sachin 15th, 37th, 49th, Satish Kumar MR 20th, 22nd, Mahalingam V 34th) bt BTM Layout: 1 (Nivas 68th); Shantinagar: 3 (Arvind Babu 10th, G John Peter 44th+1, Magesh S 59th, 84th, Pradeep R 72nd, R Sharath 75th, Rayan Wilson 80th, Ajay Alex 90th) bt Gandhinagar: 0.

State U-20 football trials

► The Karnataka State Football Association will conduct selection trials to pick the state team for the Swami Vivekananda U-20 Men's National Football Championship at the Bangalore Football Stadium on March 30 and 31, reports DHNS. Players born between Jan 1, 2007 and December 31, 2009 are eligible to participate in the trials. Interested players are requested to report by 10 am.

Marin retires over injury

► Spanish Olympic badminton gold medal winner Carolina Marin retired from the sport on Thursday after a long struggle with a knee injury, reports AFP from Madrid. The 32-year-old shuttler won gold in the women's singles at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games, and remains the only player from a non-Asian country to do so. Three-time world champion Marin had hoped to compete in the European Championships in April in Huelva, her home city in Andalusia, but did not want to risk damaging her knee.

SUMMER CAMPS

Cricket camp from Apr 6

► Bangalore City Cricket Club will conduct their summer coaching camp at the Defence Colony Grounds in Indiranagar from April 6 to May 30, reports DHNS. The camp is for boys between the age group of 5 to 17 years. For more details, contact 9448030326 or 9448381857.

Efficient CA's summer camp

► Efficient Cricket Academy will conduct their summer coaching camp for boys and girls at the St Ann's School in Kengeri from April 1 to May 15. For details contact B Puttaraj on 9341326250 or Rajesh Patil on 9845119494, reports DHNS.

◆ ON TV ◆

FOOTBALL
Friendlies: Switzerland vs Germany, England vs Uruguay, Netherlands vs Norway (1:15 am, Saturday). **LIVE on Sony Sports Network.**

TENNIS
Miami Open: Men's and women's semifinal (10:30 pm). **LIVE on FanCode.**

GOLF
Indian Open: Day 2 (1 pm). **LIVE on Sony Sports Network.**

MOTORSPORT
Formula 1: Japanese GP (practice 1, 8 am; practice 2: 11:30 am). **LIVE on FanCode.**

CRICKET
Women's 1st ODI: West Indies vs Australia (11:30 pm). **LIVE on FanCode.**

Bengaluru's Chinnaswamy to host T20I vs Windies and ODI vs Lanka

NEW DELHI, PTI

After hosting a Test match against South Africa in November last year, Guwahati's Barsapara Stadium has now secured a game in the 2027 Border-Gavaskar series between India and Australia that will be the highlight of the national team's home schedule unveiled by the BCCI on Thursday. The Indian board released the calendar for senior men's

team's home season which will comprise five Tests, nine ODIs and eight T20Is. Men's international cricket will return to the M Chinnaswamy Stadium with a T20 International cricket against West Indies on October 17. This will be followed by an ODI against Sri Lanka on December 16. The ODI matches will certainly be keenly observed as the legendary white-ball duo of Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma expected to feature in all of them. The series against Australia, spread over January, February and March of 2027, will start in Nagpur from January 21 followed by Chennai (January 29-February 2) with the third Test in Guwahati from February 11 to 15 after an eight-day gap. The fourth Test in Ranchi

India home fixtures - 2026/27		
West Indies in India ● Sept 27: 1st ODI (T'nanthapuram) ● Sept 30: 2nd ODI (Guwahati) ● Oct 3: 3rd ODI (New Chandigarh) ● Oct 6: 1st T20I (Lucknow) ● Oct 9: 2nd T20I (Ranchi) ● Oct 11: 3rd T20I (Indore) ● Oct 14: 4th T20I (Hyd) ● Oct 17: 5th T20I (B'luru)	Sri Lanka in India ● Dec 13: 1st ODI (New Delhi) ● Dec 16: 2nd ODI (Bengaluru) ● Dec 19: 3rd ODI (Ahmedabad) ● Dec 22: 1st T20I (Rajkot) ● Dec 24: 2nd T20I (Cuttack) ● Dec 27: 3rd T20I (Pune)	Zimbabwe in India ● Jan 3: 1st ODI (Kolkata); ● Jan 6: 2nd ODI (Hyderabad); ● Jan 9: 3rd ODI (Mumbai)
AUSTRALIA IN INDIA		
● Jan 21-25: 1st Test (Nagpur); ● Jan 29-Feb 2: 2nd Test (Chennai); ● Feb 11-15: 3rd Test (Guwahati); ● Feb 19-23: 4th Test (Ranchi); ● Feb 27-Mar 3: 5th Test (Ahmedabad).		

will be played between February 19 and 23 while the final Test in Ahmedabad will commence from February 27. Among the five venues, as

per rotation, Nagpur (last hosted Test vs Australia in 2023), Chennai (last hosted Test vs Bangladesh in 2024), Ranchi (last hosted Test vs England in

2024) and Ahmedabad (last hosted vs Australia in 2023) have all got their due games. However, it wasn't clear as to how Guwahati, which hosted

India's last home Test series (vs South Africa in November 2025), again features in rotation while Mumbai and Kolkata are not a part of the marquee series. It is not known whether Cricket Association of Bengal or the Mumbai Cricket Association had expressed inability to host a Test against Australia. While the Australia Test series is the main attraction during the home season, India will also play host to West Indies, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe. In fact, Zimbabwe will be playing in India in a bilateral series for the first time since 2002 when Sourav Ganguly was leading India. The season will comprise 22 international matches in 17 cities with the West Indies tour of India, starting on September 27 this year.

TENNIS

Blockbuster clash on the cards

Sabalenka to battle against Rybakina for a spot in the Miami Open final

MIAMI, AFP

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka and second-ranked Elena Rybakina on Wednesday booked a blockbuster semifinal at the Miami Open. Defending champion Sabalenka held off big-hitting 45th-ranked American Hailey Baptiste 6-4, 6-4 while Rybakina beat fifth-seeded American Jessica Pegula -- runner-up to Sabalenka last year -- 2-6, 6-3, 6-4. They will return Thursday night at Hard Rock Stadium -- home of the NFL's Miami Dolphins -- to fight for a place in the final of the elite ATP and WTA event. Rybakina beat Sabalenka in a nail-biting Australian Open final in January -- the world number one's only defeat in 2026 -- but the Belarusian avenged it with a victory in the Indian Wells final this month. "We've been playing a lot of matches, recently actually, and all of them have been a battle, all of them been a show," Sabalenka told the Tennis Channel. "I'm super-excited facing her." Sabalenka is now two wins away from completing the "Sunshine Double" of Indian Wells and Miami. Baptiste, playing her first WTA 1000 quarter-final, failed to convert three break points in Sabalenka's first two service games. Sabalenka finally broke Baptiste when the American double-faulted on set point. Sabalenka gained an early



Elena Rybakina (below) will hope to stop Aryna Sabalenka from claiming a 'Sunshine Double' when the duo face each other in a last-4 encounter at the Miami Open on Friday. AFP

break in the second, but Baptiste broke back and held confidently to level at 4-4. But as she served at 4-5 to stay in the match, the American opened with three straight double faults. Sabalenka pounced, converting her second match point with a blistering return. "She really pushed me," Sabalenka said. "The rhythm, the heaviness of her shots is incredible. I'm super happy that I was able to hold the pressure and to get the win." She'll now face a familiar foe in Rybakina, who shrugged off a slow start to post her fifth straight win over Pegula -- a streak that includes a semi-fi-

nal victory at the Australian Open and a quarter-final win at Indian Wells. Pegula, who won last month's WTA title in Dubai, broke twice to jump to a 4-0 lead and took the opening set in 35 minutes. But Rybakina was finding her rhythm and broke for a 4-2 edge on the way to forcing a third set, gaining control of the decider with an opening break. In the men's draw, 21st-seeded Czech Jiri Lehecka ended the dream run of qualifier Martin Landaluce, beating the 151st-ranked Spaniard 7-6 (1), 7-5. Lehecka will face either 22nd-seeded American Tommy Paul or 28th-seeded Arthur Fils of France for a place in the final.

Karnataka's Manikanta scorches pool en route to a golden hat-trick

RAIPUR, PTI: Karnataka swimmer Manikanta L completed a hat-trick of gold medals, dominating the 200m individual medley while Odisha's Anjali Munda clinched her second consecutive yellow metal in the women's event on day two of the Khelo India Tribal Games here on Thursday. Manikanta, who had won the 100m breaststroke and 50m butterfly gold on the opening day, continued to dominate the field as he won the 200m IM race with a time of 2:25.93s. Karnataka lead the medals tally with six gold and two silver while Odisha are second with three gold, one silver and four bronze medals. Hosts Chhattisgarh also had a reason to rejoice as local hope Anushka Bhagat added a second silver to her tally, finishing second in the women's 200m IM race. Tripura's Riyaj Tripura finished second with a time of 2:34.04s while Kanhu Soren



(Odisha) won the bronze with a time of 2:36.21s. Anjali, who had won the 200m freestyle gold on Wednesday, clinched the women's 200m IM gold with a time of 2:53.82s with Anushka clinching the silver with a time of 2:59.33s. The bronze medal went to Anjali Mallick of Odisha (3:06.13s). In the weightlifting competition, Assam's Monikha

Sonowal and Mizoram's Isak Malsawmtluanga braved through injury concerns to come up with a solid performance to clinch gold medals in the women's 48kg and men's 60 category, respectively. Monikha came to the KITG carrying a knee injury while Malsawmtluanga had to fight through a niggling back injury to put their respective states on the medals table. Monikha dominated the women's 48kg event by lifting 57kg in snatch and 75kg in clean & jerk to clinch the gold medal with a total of 132 kg. Deepa Rani Mallick of Odisha (120kg) and Alaaska Aleena of Andaman and Nicobar Islands (1116kg) bagged the silver and bronze respectively. Monikha, who hails from Assam's Dhemaji district, had twisted her knee during training three months ago and the coaches were contemplating pulling her out of the Games but she overruled them.

Niki hands advantage to South

BENGALURU, DHNS: Niki Prasad returned an impressive haul of 4/58, including the big wicket of centurion Tanisha Singh, to give South Zone an upper hand against North Zone on Day 1 of their Senior Women's Inter-Zonal multi-day (3 days) trophy semifinals in Puducherry on Thursday. Opting to bat first, North were bowled out for 236 in 91.4 overs despite Tanisha's lone effort of 126. Off-break bowler Niki also dismissed skipper Shweta Sehrawat (7) and a set Preeti Bose (27) as North kept losing wickets at regular intervals. South were 12/1 in their reply. **Brief scores:** North Zone: 236 all out in 91.4 overs (Tanisha Singh 126, Preeti Bose 27; Shabnam 3-40, Abirame R 2-63, Niki Prasad 4-58) vs South Zone: 12/1 in 5 overs.

Mixed day for Indians

BANGKOK, PTI

There was no stopping the dominant run of India's compound archers as the top-seeded mixed team pair of Rajat Chauhan and Chikitha Taniparthi (in pic) stormed into the final but the recurve contingent endured disappointment in the Asia Cup World Ranking Tournament Stage 1, here on Thursday. For India, two bronze medals are already in the bag, five entries are in the finals, and in addition, the country is in contention for two more bronze medals, keeping them on course to surpass last year's eight-medal haul (five gold, two silver, one bronze). The compound mixed team duo of Chauhan and Taniparthi, who received a direct entry into the quarter-finals as top seeds, underlined

their class with back-to-back wins. They defeated Chinese Taipei 159-155 in the quarters and then got the better of fourth-seeded Kazakhstan 157-153 in the semifinals. That the Indian pair dropped just four points from a possible 320 across 32 arrows in the two matches underlined their dominance. However, in the recurve mixed team event, the top-seeded duo of Ruma Biswas and Devaang Gupta suffered a straight-set defeat to Vietnam's Thi Dao Loc and Hoang Phi Vu Nguyen in the quarter-finals. Overall, India have reached the finals in women's recurve individual, men's recurve team, women's compound team, mixed compound team, and men's compound individual where the country is in line for a clean sweep.



Samveg shines in HBR BC win

BENGALURU, DHNS: Samveg's 32-point effort propelled HBR BC to a comfortable 76-36 win over Koramangala SC in the State Junior boys and girls basketball championship for the DN Rajanna Trophy at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium on Thursday.

LOCAL BASKETBALL

Results: League Matches: Boys: HBR BC: 76 (Samveg 32, Rishith 12) bt Koramangala SC: 36 (Laksh 11, Balaji 10). HT: 47-26; Chikmagalur District: 66 (Rishabh 21, Om Shetty 17) bt Cincinnati's BC: 15. HT: 44-07; DYES Bangalore: 66 (Vaibhav 26, Mohan 15) bt Hoskote BC: 23 (Samuel 6, Aarush 5). HT: 37-10; Hoop-7 BC: 70 (Samarth 28, Sai Tarun 12) bt Vangurads BC: 31 (Vishwak 17). HT: 35-12; Mysore Dist A: 58 (Shik 28, Nigam 12) bt Vimanapura SC: 51 (Daniel 17, Pranti 10). HT: 34-24; MNK Rao BC: 71 (Aakash 20, Yashas 9) bt Orions BC: 20 (Vashwanth 10, Aneesh 6). HT: 41-03; Beagles BC: 47 (Devcharan 11, Jayanth 10) bt IBBC: 17 (Priyansh 9, Tarun 5). HT: 31-13; Lakshyan BC: 49 (Prawav 17, Abinav 12) bt Bharath SU: 48 (Pranav 16, Mahz 15). HT: 35-15; Pattabhiramanagar BC: 46 (Apuv 15, Kavya 12) bt Hallasaru SU: 22 (Ruchir 16, Dhruv 6). HT: 20-11. **Girls:** JSC: 37 (Taarushree 26) bt Orions BC: 11 (Akanisha 5). HT: 22-09; Vimanapura SC: 25 (Ananya 9, Samskrita 7) bt MNK Rao BC: 17 (Hiya 11). HT: 14-9; Appajah BC: 28 (Aarushi 8, Navya 5) bt Bangalore Sporting BC: 20. HT: 8-14; Bharath SU: 33 (Archana 4, Shreya 3). HT: 17-07; DYES Vidyanagar: 37 (Vibha 8, Sheetal 7) bt Koramangala SC: 15 (Aanya 5). HT: 22-12.

Tough outing awaits shooters

TANGIER (MOROCCO), PTI: India's skeet shooters, comprising of Maheshwari Chauhan and siblings Darshana Rathore and Yashasvi Rathore, will have their task cut out as they face a strong line-up on the first day of the ISSF Shotgun World Cup here on Friday. A highly competitive field consisting of Olympic and world champions are in the fray.

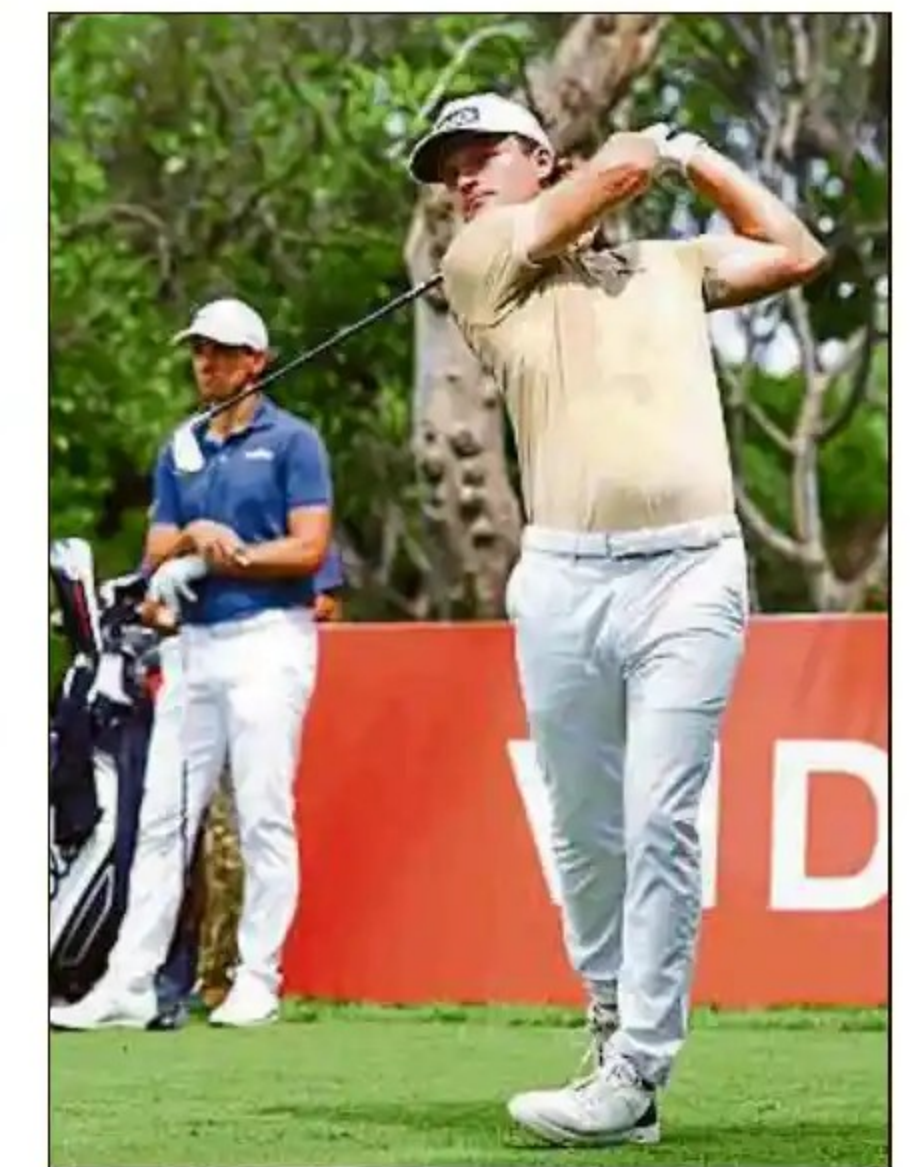
Mascarenhas to make World Rally debut

BENGALURU, DHNS: Reigning two-time national rally champion Dean Mascarenhas, along with co-driver Gagan Karumbaiah, will make his World Championship debut, announced his team TSI Racing here. 32-year-old Mascarenhas, will compete in the WRC3 class at Rally Islas Canarias this April, making him only the third Indian driver to participate in multiple rounds of the WRC after Naren Kumar and Gaurav Gill. The latter two also featured for TSI racing. Rally Islas Canarias is a fast, technical tarmac event on Spain's Canary Islands and will represent Dean's most demanding competitive environment to date. "This is a moment I've been working toward for a long time. Gagan and I have put in a lot of work together, and TSI Racing has given us everything we need to be competitive," said Mascarenhas.

Champ Chacarra trails Schott by a shot

GURUGRAM, PTI

Defending champion Eugenio Chacarra, who cradled the Hero Indian Open Trophy on his lap on his flight from New Delhi to New York after winning the 2025 edition of the event, put himself in a great position to have a go at becoming a back-to-back winner here on Thursday. The Spaniard, who called his 2025 win "life-changing", turned 26 on Monday and celebrated it with a 5-under 67 in the opening round. He was still one behind leader Freddy Schott of Germany, who carded 6-under 66. Schott twice slid back from 6-under to 5-under with bogeys on the 14th and the 17th, but holed an eighth birdie on the 18th, to be the sole leader at 66. With the course proving to be a challenge as it always does, only 31 players broke par and none of them were Indians. Veer Ahlawat, the PGTI Order of Merit winner in 2024 and runner-up at the 2024



Germany's Freddy Schott in action during the opening round of the Hero Indian Open Trophy in Gurugram on Thursday.

more hole to play. They were tied 41st. Schott, 24, is trying to emulate his mentor, Marcel Siem, who won the 2023 Indian Open. Schott spent the 2020 DPWT season as a caddie with Siem, trying to gain experience before turning professional in 2021. Schott, who won his maiden DP World Tour title at the Bapco Bahrain Championship eight weeks ago, had four birdies on either side of the DLF Golf and Country Club, and dropped shots on the 14th, which played the toughest on the first day, and the 17th. Meanwhile, Akshay Bhatia, the Hero Brand Ambassador, and the highest world ranked player, coming after his win at the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill on the PGA Tour, had a rough start with a round of 77. He shot 8-over for his first nine on the back stretch and followed that up with a 3-under 33 for a 11-shot swing between the two halves of the course. He hit the wrong ball on the 15th and ended with a triple bogey.

Saiko wins the Euphrates Cup

KOLKATA RESULTS
Vijay Singh-trained Saiko, ridden by Jockey Suraj Narredu, won the Euphrates Cup at the races on Thursday. **1. The Alamo Handicap - 1100M:** Moneycatcher (Darshan N) 1; Diamond Gold (Antony Raj) 2; Lahina (V Bunde) 3; Star Pride (Arman Khan) 4. Wb: 1-3/4, 1/2, Lnk: T: 1:6.56; TB: Shafiq Khan; Fav: Moneycatcher. **2. The Brave Patriarch Handicap - 1400M:** Italian Gold (I Chisty) 1; Pyrgos (Hasib Khan) 2; Midnight Star (Suraj Narredu) 3; Fortune Warrior (Darshan N). Wb: 2, 1/2, Lnk: T: 1:27.77; TB: Shafiq Khan; Fav: Italian Gold. **3. The Euphrates Cup 1200M:** Saiko (Suraj Narredu) 1; Argento (P Trevor) 2; Fifty Shades (Sah Farid Ansari) 3; Silver Dream (Hindu Singh) 4. Wb: 4-1/2, 6, 1-3/4; T: 1:12.12; TB: Vijay Singh; Fav: Argento. **4. The Romantic Memories Handicap - 1100M:** Dona Slenna (Suraj Narredu) 1; Watch My Stride (V Bunde) 2; Sabar (P Tajeshwar) 3; Trillionaire (MS Deora) 4. Wb: 1/14, 1-1/2, 1-1/4; T: 1:05.39; TB: Bharath Singh, Dona Slenna. **5. The Tug Of War Handicap 1600M:** Lochs And Glens (Suraj Narredu) 1; True Faith (Varun) 2; Garth (P Trevor) 3; Track Striking (R Vaibhava) 4. Wb: Snk, Snk, 3-1/2, T: 1:39.44; TB Neel Darashah; Fav: Lochs And Glens. **6. The Bright Law Handicap 1400M:** Fable (P Trevor) 1; Romping Home (Hindu Singh) 2; Merlet (I Chisty) 3; Supreme Grandeur (Darshan N) 4. Wb: 1-3/4, 2, 2-1/4, T: 1:24.62; TB: Aashay Doctor; Fav: Fable. **Bengaluru dividends** **I race:** Rs 28w; Rs 11, Rs 11, Rs 12p; Fc: Rs 57; Q: Rs 53; Shp: Rs 30; Thp: Rs 36; Tri: Rs 142 & 51; Exp: Rs 1104 & 1149. **II race:** Rs 28w; Rs 19, Rs 41p; Fc: Rs 268; Q: Rs 181; Shp: Rs 57; Thp: Rs 34; Tri: Rs 637 & 364; Exp: Rs 3069 & 1973. **III race:** Rs 22w; Rs 10, Rs 10p; Fc: Rs 35; Q: Rs 12; Shp: Rs 21; Thp: Rs 21; Tri: Rs 41 & 50. **IV race:** Rs 22w; 12, 20, 63p; Fc: Rs 174; Q: Rs 89; Shp: Rs 56; Thp: Rs 97; Tri: Rs 4212 & 2527; Exp: Rs 15249 & 6535. **V race:** Rs 14w; Rs 10, Rs 23p; Fc: Rs 58; Q: Rs 84; Shp: 31; Thp: 46; Tri: Rs 68 & 25; Exp: 304 & 357. **VI race:** Rs 19w; 12, 14, 12p; Fc: Rs 45; Q: Rs 27; Shp: Rs 34; Thp: Rs 34; Tri: Rs 99 & 33; Exp: Rs 301 & 224. **Jackpot:** Rs 684 & 135. **I treble:** Rs 224. **II treble:** Rs 100.

Shine for the Bangalore Turf Club Cup

KOLKATA SELECTIONS
Shine, from stables of Vijay Singh and to be ridden by Suraj Narredu, will garner the maximum support in the The Bangalore Turf Club Cup, the feature event of the races on Friday. The first race starts at 2.30 pm. **1. The Noble View Handicap - 1600M:** No Worry 1, Cristaldo 2, Dubai Prince 3. **2. The Nikita Handicap - 1600M:** Star Studded 1, Xanthe 2, Booster Shot 3. **3. The Surfside Handicap - 1400M:** Upper Street 1, Amaze And Inspire 2, Keitaro 3. **4. The Oakmead Handicap (Div I) - 1400M:** Clear Galaxy 1, Anigraga 2, Banduk Wali 3. **5. The Oakmead Handicap (Div II) - 1400M:** Sea Eagle 1, Impressive Annie 2, Oh My Darling 3. **6. The Bangalore Turf Club Cup - 1200M:** Shine 1, Abhicandra 2, Victoria Cross 3. **7. The Antequera Handicap - 1200M:** Mi Ation 1, Priceless Prince 2, Hours The Great 3. **Day's Best:** Upper Street. **Jackpot:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. **I treble:** 2, 3, 4. **II treble:** 5, 6, 7.

Second phase of IPL to be held from April 13 to May 24

NEW DELHI, PTI

The second phase of the IPL 2026 will begin on April 13 and conclude on May 24, the BCCI announced on Thursday while releasing the full fixtures of the league phase.

The first phase runs from March 28 to April 12, with

defending champions Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Sunrisers Hyderabad facing off in the league opener at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday. The final is slated for May 31 in Bengaluru.

“The remainder of the league stage, comprising 50 matches, will be played from April 13 to May 24, 2026,



Devajit Saikia

across 12 venues in India,” BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said in a statement.

“Matches in the second phase will be held in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai,

Kolkata, Delhi, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad, Lucknow, Jaipur, Dharamshala, Raipur and New Chandigarh,” he added.

“As the tournament enters a crucial phase, teams will compete across venues for a place in the playoffs, with the race expected to intensify through the latter half of the league stage.”

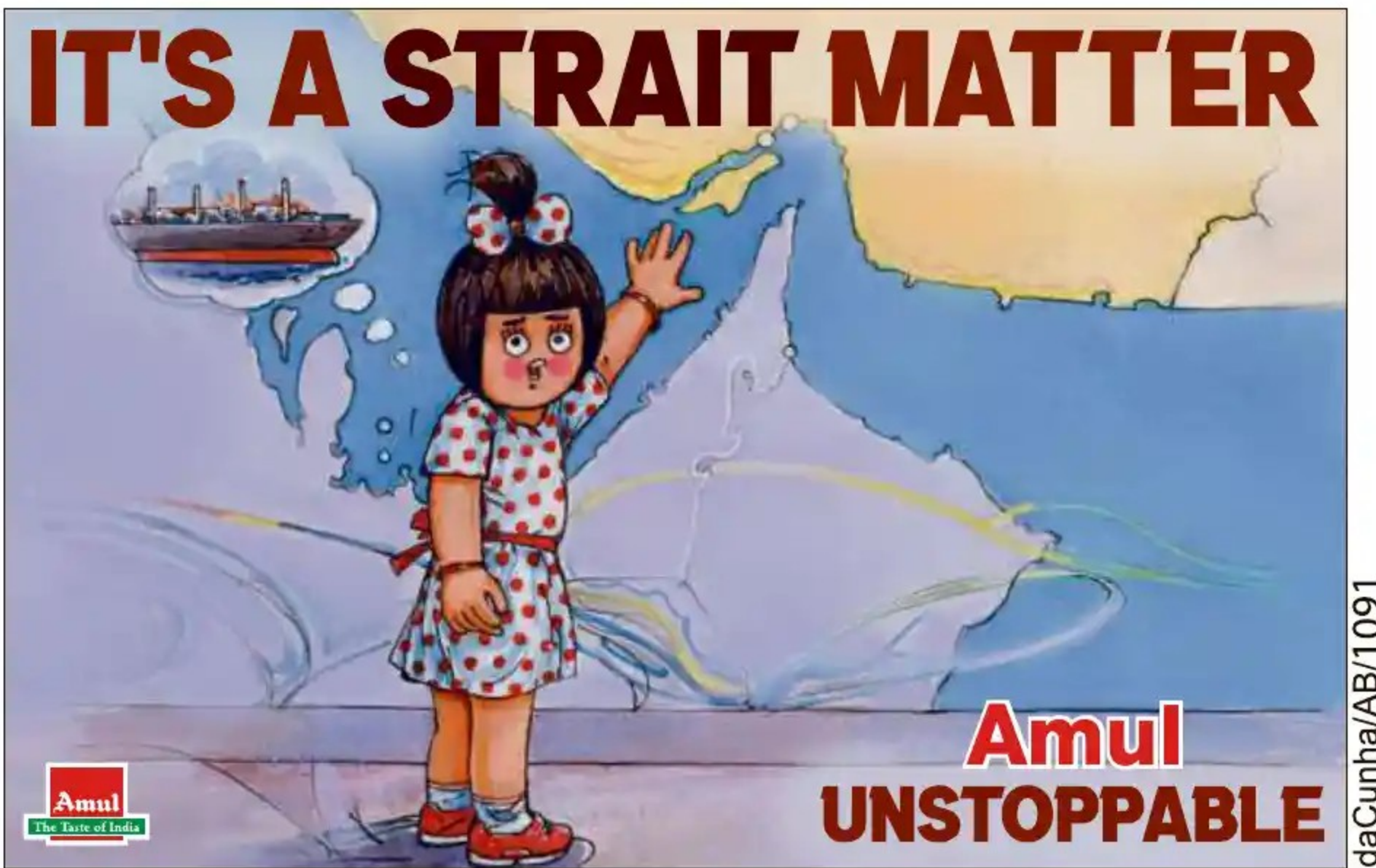
The action resumes on April 13 with Sunrisers Hyderabad taking on Rajasthan Royals in Hyderabad, setting the tone for an exciting run of fixtures.

The second phase will feature eight double-headers.

Punjab Kings will play their home matches in New Chandigarh and Dharamshala, including three games at

the latter venue during this phase.

Rajasthan Royals will host four home games in Jaipur, while Royal Challengers Bengaluru will play three home matches in Bengaluru and two in Raipur. RCB take on Mumbai Indians (May 10) and Kolkata Knight Riders (May 13) in Raipur.



PBKS’ potential promises a brighter season

Punjab franchise hopes to go one better after faltering in the final last year

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
BENGALURU, DHNS

“Yatra Pratibha Avsara Prapnoti”, a Sanskrit saying which means where talent meets opportunity, is inscribed on the Indian Premier League trophy. And Punjab Kings truly lived up to the tournament’s motto last season.

Ricky Ponting’s coaching and Shreyas Iyer’s captaincy combined well as an inexperienced yet talented group, when handed an opportunity to showcase their mettle, put on display a great show throughout the campaign which resulted in their first IPL final in 11 years.

While a maiden title was not meant to be, the Kings are dreaming again 10 months on, and Shreyas already “has his eyes on the trophy”.

After punching above their weight last year, PBKS will hope to replicate their run and look go one better. However, this season, they will have to also lift the weight of expectations on their shoulders.

History suggests that Punjab go into every auction with a fat pay cheque and splurge money on a complete overhaul. And their biggest challenge has been maintaining a stable squad.

This time, though, they barely lifted the paddle in the mini-auc-



Arshdeep Singh

“I want you to think back and think what you brought to this team last year that made us a good team. We all make mistakes. But as long as you are sticking to what your game plan is, doing that in my eyes is not a mistake.”

Ricky Ponting
Head Coach



tion and a familiar core of youth and experience remains. And for a side that has lacked continuity, things are off to a smooth start.

While they don’t possess a fear-inducing squad on paper, they will again bank on openers Priyansh Arya and Prabhsimran Singh, who were the bedrock of Punjab’s success, nicely setting a platform for Shreyas, Nehal Wadhwa, Marcus Stoinis and Shashank Singh.

Shreyas walks into the IPL as someone chasing relevance in the format, and will be desperate to pass another audition after being picked just once in the Indian T20 side since 2023.

After letting go of Glenn Maxwell and Josh Inglis, and with Ponting’s emphasis on belligerent batting, they retained Mitchell Owen.

Owen’s best performances have come at the top of the order, be it for Hobart Hurricanes or Washington Freedom. And Ponting was also Owen’s coach at Freedom where he opened the batting.

Owen’s 108 off just 42 balls in

the BBL final, his best T20 score, also came as an opener. With Priyansh and Prabhsimran’s success opening the batting, it will be interesting to see how the big-hitting Aussie is used.

The presence of all-rounders in Marco Jansen and Azmatullah Omarzai, alongside Stoinis and Cooper Connolly, allows them to choose from a number of combinations.

Arshdeep Singh and Yuzvendra Chahal are bankable wicket-taking options while Harpreet Brar goes about his business from overs 7-16 without much limelight.

PBKS also have fast bowling back-up options in Ben Dwarshuis and Xavier Bartlett, who could come in handy with Lockie Ferguson’s arrival

delayed.

And for a team chasing their first title, the talented bunch certainly bring promise for a brighter future.

Squad: Prabhsimran Singh, Priyansh Arya, Shreyas Iyer, Shashank Singh, Nehal Wadhwa, Marcus Stoinis, Azmatullah Omarzai, Marco Jansen, Harpreet Brar, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Musheer Khan, Pyala Avinash, Harmoor Pannu, Suryansh Shedge, Mitchell Owen, Xavier Bartlett, Lockie Ferguson, Vysakh Vijaykumar, Yash Thakur, Vishnu Vinod, Cooper Connolly, Ben Dwarshuis, Pravin Dubey, Vishal Nishad

Best finishes: Runners-up (2014, 2025).



Shreyas Iyer

IPL 2026
1 day to go

Indian football team denied entry at Kochi stadium

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Indian football team members, including head coach Khalid Jamil, were denied entry at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi by the stadium authority over non-payment of dues by the Kerala Football Association ahead of the national team’s Asian Cup Qualifier match against Hong Kong on March 31.

The incident took place on Thursday prior to a scheduled press conference by the state body that was to be attended by the coach and Kerala-origin players in the Indian team, including Bengaluru FC’s forward Ashique Kuruniyan.

However, Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA), which is in charge of the venue, denied them entry over non-payment of a deposit to book the stadium over the next four days for the match.

The media event, which was also to be attended by team members Sahal Abdul Samad and Bijoy Varghese, was eventually called off.

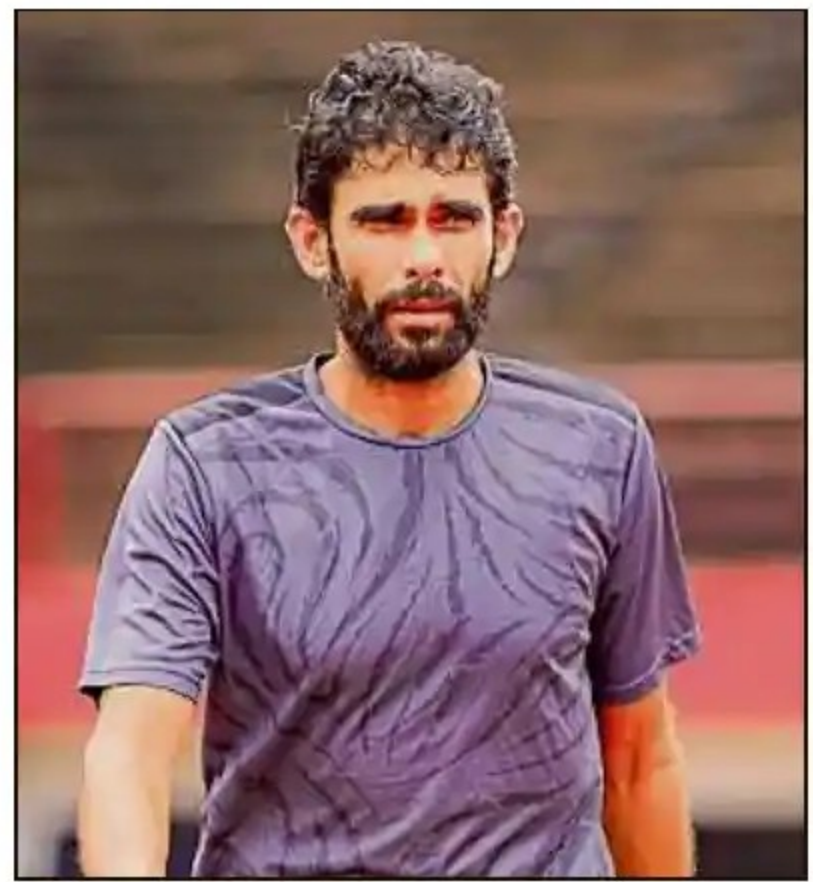
The incident now casts a shadow of doubt over the hosting of the inconsequential match (India

are already out of the qualification scenario) that is slated to kick off at 7 pm on March 31.

The venue is also scheduled to host training sessions and pre-match press conferences in the build-up to the encounter.

However, a source, in the know of the development, has confirmed to *DH* that the issue will be sorted out soon as the All India Football Federation has been assured that all dues will be cleared.

GCDA has maintained a strong stance towards clearance of dues over hosting matches this season as Kerala Blasters, who host their matches at the same venue in the Indian Super League, were also blocked over non-payment of dues ahead of their opening home match against Mumbai City FC last month.



Khalid Jamil

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